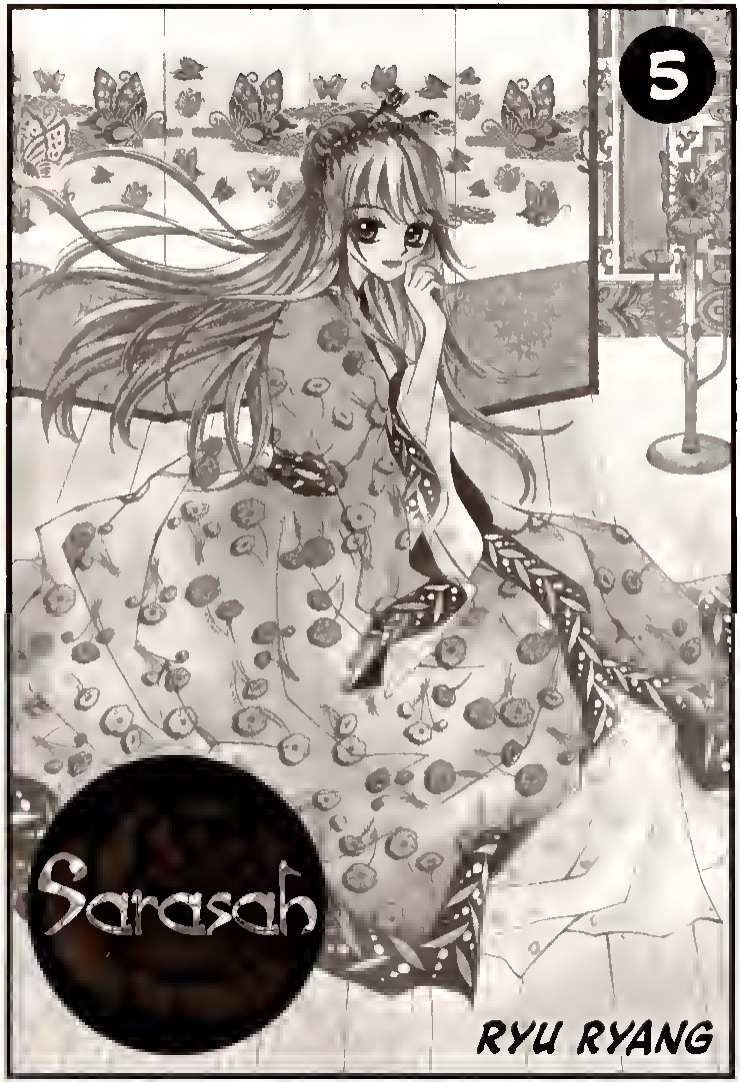
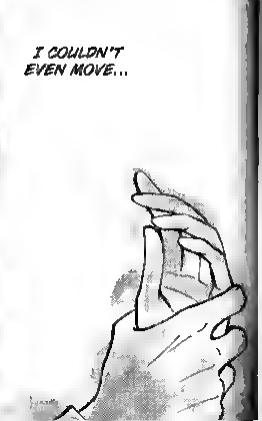
Sarasah


5
Sarasah
RYU RYANG

NYAH!

OH—!
HNK (TURN)
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
SAK (TURN)
HN?
SAK (TURN)
TAK (HOLD)
KKWAK (SQUEEZE)
AH!
NO— PLEASE STOP!

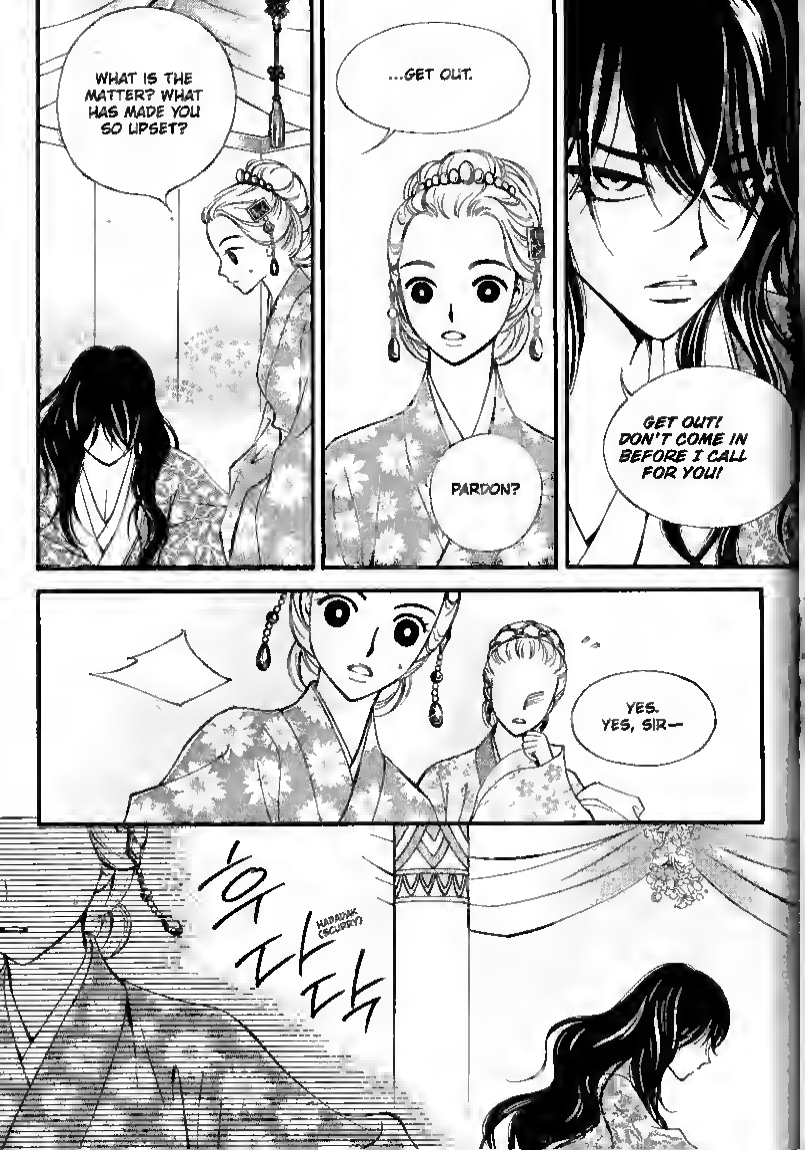
.....
SO THIS IS THE KIND OF MAN YOU ARE, HUH?
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
WHAT WAS THAT...?
FORCING SOMEONE WHO RESISTS YOU— OVERPOWERING THEM WITH YOUR STRENGTH...!
WHAT, AREN'T YOU GETTING ENOUGH?
OR IS THIS THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN GET ANY ACTION?
POSSESSING THE POWER OF SPEECH DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE AT LIBERTY TO SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT—
YOU SAID YOU WANTED ME.
BUT I DON'T GIVE ANYONE MY BODY UNLESS THEY'VE ALREADY TAKEN MY HEART.
IF YOU WANT ME, YOU NEED TO WIN MY HEART FIRST!
.....
KUNG
ACK!



THAT WAS SO SCARY I NEVER KNEW HOW TERRIFYING IT IS TO BE ACCOSTED LIKE THAT.. HOW POWERLESS IT MAKES YOU FEEL.

BebeⓒXiu
SHOUJO

WHAT, AREN'T YOU GETTING ENOUGH? OR IS THIS THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN GET ANY ACTION?
HOW DARE HE...?
HOW DARE HE TREAT ME LIKE SOME UNEDUCATED BEAST?
THAT PITIFUL LITTLE—! WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, GIVING ME ORDERS—?!
HA!
WHAT'S MORE... WHAT DID HE SAY? I MUST WIN HIS HEART FIRST?
COULD IT BE...
COULD HE HAVE RILED ME ON PURPOSE, KNOWING I CARE NOTHING FOR HIS HEART?
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE IS THINKING!
KHELIS CROFT?
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO


WHAT IS THE MATTER? WHAT HAS MADE YOU SO UPSET?
...GET OUT.
PARDON?
GET OUT! DON'T COME IN BEFORE I CALL FOR YOU!
YES. YES, SIR—
HAPPENING (SOUND)?

BebeCXiu
SHOUJO
AT FIRST HE WAS JUST AN AMUSING PLAYTHING—

BUT WHEN I HEARD HIM PROCLAIM HIS AFFECTIONS FOR THAT GIRL, I FELT SOMETHING STRANGE...
THAT INSOLENT...!
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO
VERY WELL, MY LITTLE TOY. WE SHALL PLAY SOME MORE.
YOU'VE PUSHED ME THIS FAR. LET US SEE JUST HOW FAR WE CAN GO.
JE-RYONG-NIM...

...SHOULD WE TELL LORD GALUB? I THINK IT UNWISE TO ACT ON OUR OWN...
I SAID NO!
THIS INCIDENT IS MY FAULT, SO I SHALL BE THE ONE TO TAKE CARE OF IT.
I WILL CLEAN UP THIS MESS QUIETLY, AND IT WILL BE AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.
YES, BUT...
...LOOKING FOR THIS GIRL IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE WHEN WE HAVE NEVER SEEN HER FACE. WHERE DO WE EVEN BEGIN...?
YES, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT.

OUR TROUBLES STARTED WHEN LORD SEON-PUM PICKED UP THAT POUCH. SO THAT'S WHERE WE SHOULD LOOK FIRST.
WE'LL START WITH FAMILIES THAT ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED TO HIS—

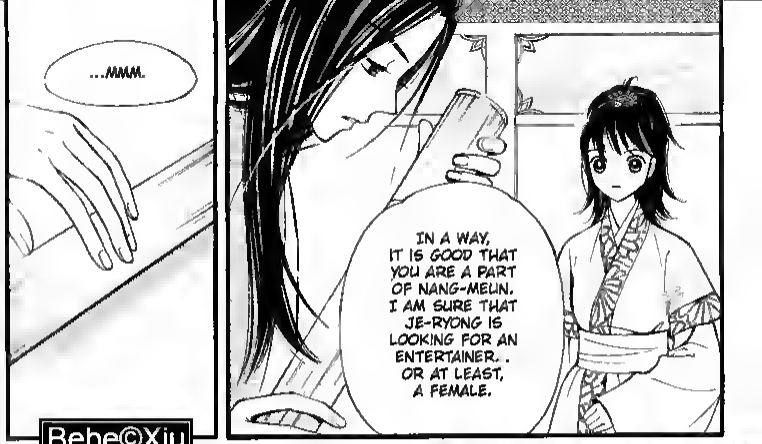
LET'S BEGIN WITH LORD SEON-PUM'S ESTATE!
CHECK HIS FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY SERVANTS WHO ENTER OR LEAVE HIS HOUSE. WE MUST FIND THAT GIRL!
ALSO SEE IF YOU CAN LEARN WHOM LORD SEON-PUM MAY HAVE GIVEN THAT POUCH TO OR MET WITH BEFORE HE LEFT!

.....
WHAT HAPPENED?
BebeXiu SHOUJO
BEFORE THAT— REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS AT MISA-HEUL'S? HE'S—
LORD GALUBU?
WELL, I DIDN'T HEAR EVERYTHING, BUT I HEARD THE IMPORTANT PARTS.
SO A FEW DAYS LATER, I WENT TO HIS HOUSE TO INVESTIGATE.
HOW DID HE KNOW?
...AND YOU HAVE EVIDENCE TO BACK UP YOUR SUSPICIONS?

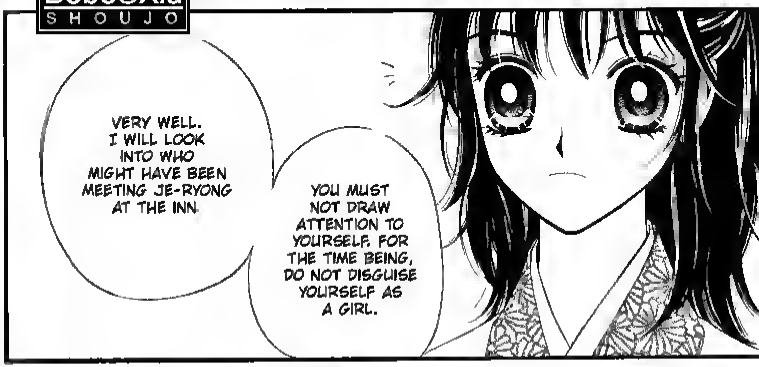
AND I JUST HAPPENED TO GET THERE RIGHT WHEN GALUBU'S HENCHMAN WAS LEAVING—
OH, DO YOU KNOW WHO HE IS? HE'S ABOUT THIS BIG—
HE IS CALLED JE-RYONG. HE IS GALUBU'S FAITHFUL DOG.
I SEE. ANYWAY, I COULD TELL THAT HE WAS DANGEROUS~.
JEAJAL CHANGEO
재칼
JEAJAL
재칼
BebeOXiu
SHOUJO
—!
WHAT...?
YOU—
HOW COULD YOU—?

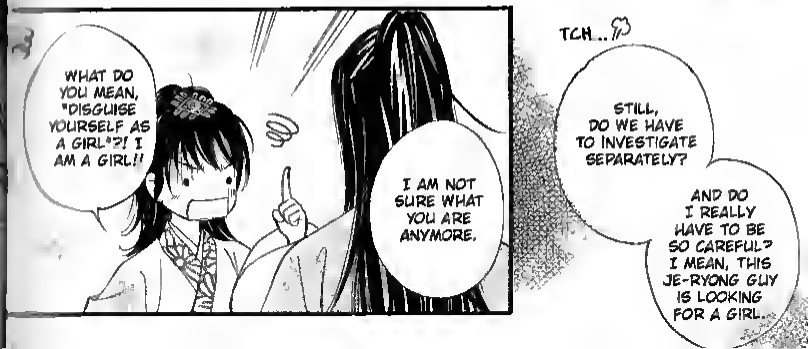
IS IT NOT ENOUGH THAT YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT LORD GALUBU'S INVOLVEMENT?! YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE FOLLOWED HIM!
IT WASN'T HARD OR ANYTHING.
IF THAT IS THE CASE, WHY DID YOU LOSE YOUR RESOLVE?
AS SOON AS YOU WOKE UP, YOU RAN OUT LIKE SOMETHING WAS AFTER YOU!
THAT'S—!
THAT WAS PERSONAL. IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM.
...I DO NOT KNOW HOW YOU ESCAPED. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT YOU WERE EXTREMELY FORTUNATE.
I WAS, WASN'T I? IT'S LIKE LUCK IS FOLLOWING ME AROUND, RIGHT?

....
SHEESH... YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
STILL, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT OUR INVESTIGATION WOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN THIS FAR THIS FAST WITHOUT ME, RIGHT?
I DO NOT DENY THAT YOU HAVE BEEN HELPFUL. I AM MERELY WORRIED THAT YOUR METHODS WILL GET YOU INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE


...MMM.
IN A WAY, IT IS GOOD THAT YOU ARE A PART OF NANG-MEUN. I AM SURE THAT JE-RYONG IS LOOKING FOR AN ENTERTAINER.. OR AT LEAST, A FEMALE.

BebeOXiu
SHOUJO


VERY WELL. I WILL LOOK INTO WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN MEETING JE-RYONG AT THE INN.
YOU MUST NOT DRAW ATTENTION TO YOURSELF. FOR THE TIME BEING, DO NOT DISGUISE YOURSELF AS A GIRL.

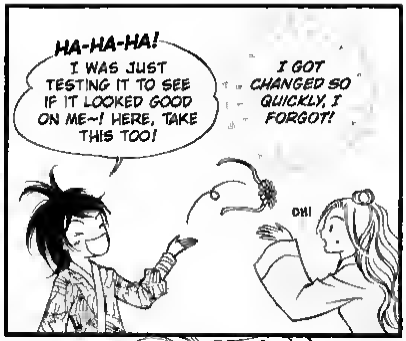

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "DISGUISE YOURSELF AS A GIRL"?! I AM A GIRL!!
I AM NOT SURE WHAT YOU ARE ANYMORE.
TCH...
STILL, DO WE HAVE TO INVESTIGATE SEPARATELY?
AND DO I REALLY HAVE TO BE SO CAREFUL? I MEAN, THIS JE-RYONG GUY IS LOOKING FOR A GIRL...

HOW CAN YOU ASK SUCH A THING?!
HE MAY BE SEARCHING FOR A GIRL, BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN HE SEES YOU! WHY ARE YOU SO INSISTENT ON RUSHING FORWARD?!
IT'S—!
IT'S BECAUSE I WANT TO WRAP THIS UP QUICKLY AND GO HOME
STAYING AT MISA-HEUL'S PLACE..IS GETTING REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE.
.....
I UNDERSTAND. I WILL DO WHATEVER I CAN SO THAT YOU MAY LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

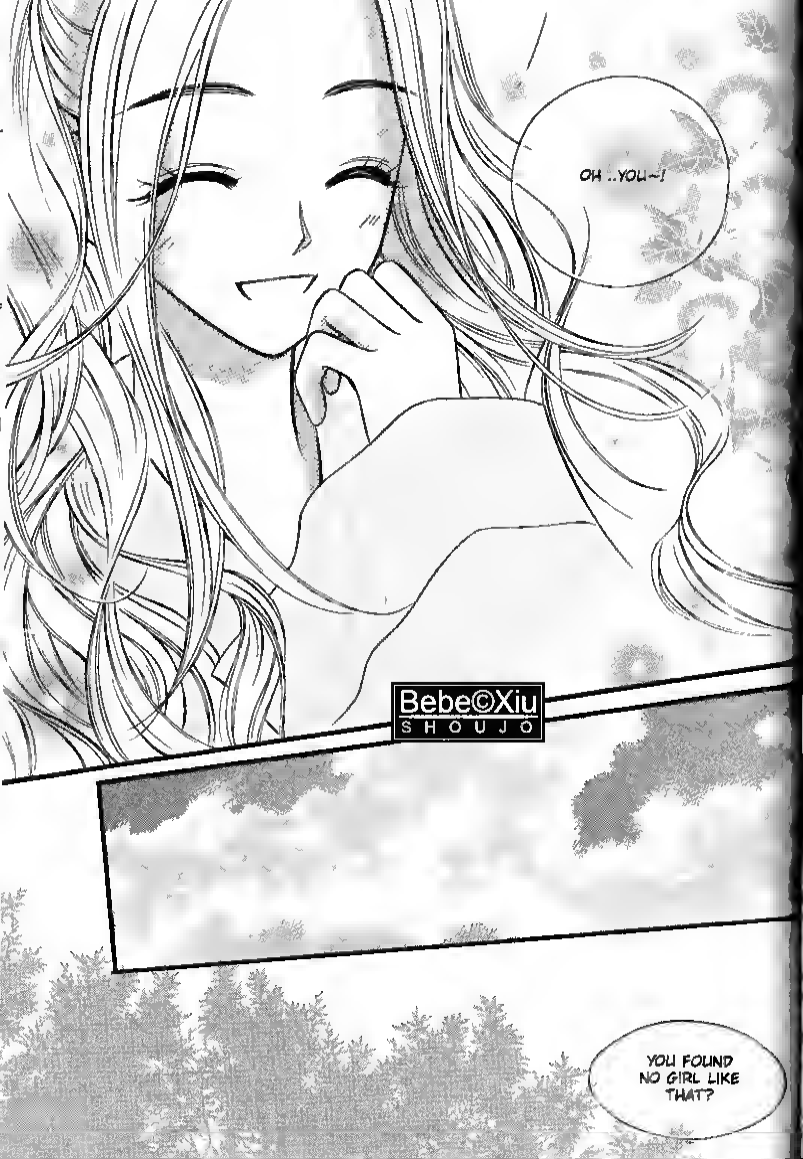
BY THE WAY, WHAT IS THAT?
OH!
IT'S A PRESENT FOR SO-DAN!
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
ARE YOU REALLY GIVING THESE TO ME?

MM-HMM~!
MY...
THESE LOOK EXPENSIVE— I REALLY CANNOT ACCEPT SOMETHING SO EXTRAVAGANT, SEUNG-HYU.
BebeOXiu SHOUJO
NO, PLEASE TAKE THEM. I JUST HAPPENED TO COME ACROSS THEM AND THOUGHT THEY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THEM, THAT'S ONE THING, BUT—
NO, THEY'RE LOVELY. THE MATERIAL IS EXQUISITE, AND I REALLY DO LIKE THEM...
...BUT, YOU KNOW...
...PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED IT EARLIER, BUT...

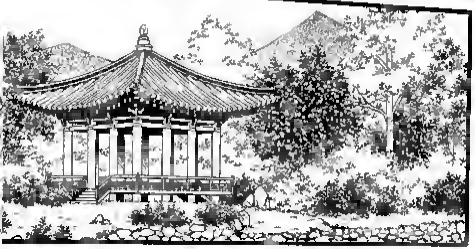
...THAT ORNAMENT ON YOUR HEAD...
HUH?
OH!


HA-HA-HA! I WAS JUST TESTING IT TO SEE IF IT LOOKED GOOD ON ME~! HERE, TAKE THIS TOO!
I GOT CHANGED SO QUICKLY, I FORGOT!
OH!

YOU'VE GIVEN ME SO MUCH, AND I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER IN RETURN...WHAT SHOULD I DO?
YOUR SMILING FACE IS ENOUGH FOR ME.


OH ..YOU~!
BebeⓒXiu
SHOUJO
YOU FOUND NO GIRL LIKE THAT?

YES. THERE IS ONE MAID NAMED GU-SEUL WHO IS THE RIGHT AGE, BUT SHE DOES NOT MATCH THE DESCRIPTION. AND LORD SEUN-PUM HAS DAUGHTERS, BUT THEY ARE ALL TOO YOUNG.
I DOUBT HE WOULD ENTRUST HIS CHILDREN WITH SUCH A DANGEROUS TASK, ESPECIALLY A DAUGHTER.
DID YOU AT LEAST FIND OUT WHOM HE MET WITH BEFORE HE LEFT?
WELL— THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT SERVANTS KNOW OF THEIR MASTERS' BUSINESS.
..BUT IN TIME, I AM CERTAIN WE WILL SLOWLY UNCOVER THE TRUTH.
THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH WE CAN LEARN.
IF ONLY I HAD MORE HELP— PARTICULARLY FROM SOMEONE WHO IS NOT BARRED BY CLASS DISTINCTIONS.
YES...HE WOULD BE PERFECT...BUT GIVEN HIS REACTION THAT DAY, I WONDER IF HE WILL BE WILLING TO HELP AT ALL.



HOW HAVE YOU BEEN PROGRESSING WITH LORD GALUBU'S REQUEST?
OH—THAT MATTER WITH LORD SEON-PUM? WELL, SINCE IT IS MY FATHER'S PROBLEM, I SAW NO REASON TO TROUBLE MYSELF WITH IT.

BebeXiu SHOUJO

FIVE DAYS AGO, I WENT TO YOUNGWOLGWAN INN TO MEET WITH SOMEONE ABOUT OVERTAKING THE AMBASSADORS IN THE TANG DYNASTY.
AS WE WERE DISCUSSING THE DETAILS, I SENSED SOME-ONE'S PRESENCE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW—
—!

IF I RECALL, WASN'T THERE A SIMILAR INCIDENT AT YOUR RESIDENCE?
YOU REMEMBER? IT HAPPENED WHEN LORD GALUBU AND I VISITED.
IT WAS MERELY AN ANIMAL.
DID YOU CATCH WHOEVER WAS EAVESDROPPING ON YOU?
NO...
THE SPY VANISHED LIKE A GHOST BEFORE I HAD THE CHANCE.
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
OH DEAR~ I HOPE YOUR PRIDE DIDN'T SUFFER TOO MUCH,
IT WAS A WOMAN.

WHAT? A WOMAN?!
YES OR RATHER, A GIRL PROBABLY FIFTEEN OR SIXTEEN YEARS OLD.
...WHAT DID SHE LOOK LIKE?
UNFORTUNATELY I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT HER FACE, BUT SHE WAS PRETTY ENOUGH THAT I MISTOOK HER FOR A GIRL WHO WORKED THERE.

HA HA HA
HA...
SHE WAS PRETTY, WAS SHE? DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVE OTHER MOTIVES FOR SEEKING HER OUT?
HOW COULD YOU EVEN JOKE ABOUT SUCH A THING? NEVER!!
DOES HE TAKE ANYTHING SERIOUSLY?
NO? WELL, UNLIKE YOU, I AM QUITE INTERESTED IN THIS DEVELOPMENT.
A LOVELY YOUNG GIRL ACTING AS A SPY, EH?

FINE. I WILL CONTACT YOU WHEN I'VE FOUND OUT SOMETHING. YOU MAY GO NOW.
YES, SIR.
SECRETLY (OTSP)
SECRETLY
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO
A FIFTEEN OR SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL...?
AND...
...THE ANIMAL I SAW OUTSIDE THE WINDOW...

BebeXiu
SHOJO
타다다닥
TADADAT
DAE-HWA-RANG IS LOOKING FOR YOU. HURRY!
SEUNG-HYU—!
MUN-KWANG-HYUNG?
FOR ME?

MISA-HEUL-RANG IS LOOKING FOR ME?
WHY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? JUST HURRY UP AND GO.
.....
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
DID YOU SEND FOR ME?
.....
HM—?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET SINCE THAT DAY..
THOUGH I WISH I NEVER HAD TO SEE HIM AGAIN!
SO, DID YOU GIVE AWAY YOUR HEART?
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
PALLAK QUIETLY
팔락
팔락!
THAT SO-DAN GIRL. DID YOU NOT BRING HER A GIFT?
OH—!
YEAH, I GAVE HER A PRESENT, BUT I DIDN'T TELL HER ANYTHING YET.
YOU CALLED FOR ME JUST TO ASK ME THAT?
I HEARD FROM ONE OF THE NANG-DO LEADERS THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN KEPEING UP WITH YOUR TRAINING LATELY. IS THAT TRUE?
WHAT? ME...?
I HEARD YOU LEFT NANG-MEUN EARLY, TWO DAYS AGO.

AND...
...I UNDERSTAND FIVE DAYS AGO YOU DIDN'T BOTHER COMING AT ALL. OR AM I MISINFORMED ..?
FIVE DAYS AGO...THE DAY I FOLLOWED JE-RYONG...
THAT WAS THE DAY I WENT TO MEET BUB-MIN-RANG!
UMM— THAT WAS...
IT'S VERY STRANGE INDEED. FROM WHAT I REMEMBER, YOU DIDN'T RETURN HOME UNTIL WELL AFTER SUNDOWN DID THE NANG-DO LEADER MAKE A MISTAKE?

BebeXiu
SHOUJO

ON. . ON THAT DAY..
...WHILE I WAS ON MY WAY TO NANG-MEUN, THORNY...
...I MEAN, MY PET, RAN OFF, SO...
...SO I WAS LOOKING FOR HIM...!
.....
IS THAT SO?
I'M SO SORRY, DAE-HWA-RANG! IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
HMM . YOU MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT A LAZY NANG-DO REFLECTS BADLY ON HIS DAE-HWA-RANG
탁

AH, ALSO...
...I WENT TO THE PALACE THE OTHER DAY AND HAPPENED TO MEET LORD HAN-SHIN. I TOLD HIM THAT YOU ARE WELL.
!
HE SEEMS TO BE FEELING BETTER.
.....
UM...
DO YOU NOT REMEMBER? HE FELL FROM A HORSE AND WAS INJURED NOT LONG BEFORE YOU LEFT THERE.
OH! OH—
PHEW—
OF COURSE I REMEMBER!
I'M SO GLAD TO HEAR THAT HE'S BETTER. WHAT A RELIEF
...RIGHT.
THAT IS ALL. YOU MAY LEAVE NOW.
YES, SIR...
WAIT!
!!
GIVEN WHAT'S HAPPENED...
...I THINK I SHOULD ACCOMPANY YOU WHENEVER YOU GO IN OR OUT OF NANG-MEUN. THAT WAY YOU WON'T BE TEMPTED TO NEGLECT YOUR TRAINING.

BebeXiu SHOUJO

WHAT?!
HA!
SLAM (SMILE)
OH
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU? NOW GO.
TAK
.....
.....
SUDDEN (TYPEWRITER)
WHAT...?
WAJANGCHANG (CRASH)
OH NO!
NOT GOOD! THIS IS NOT GOOD AT ALL—!!
I HAVE MORE INVESTIGATING TO DO!
WHAT?! NOW I CAN'T EVEN LEAVE WITHOUT PERMISSION?
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO

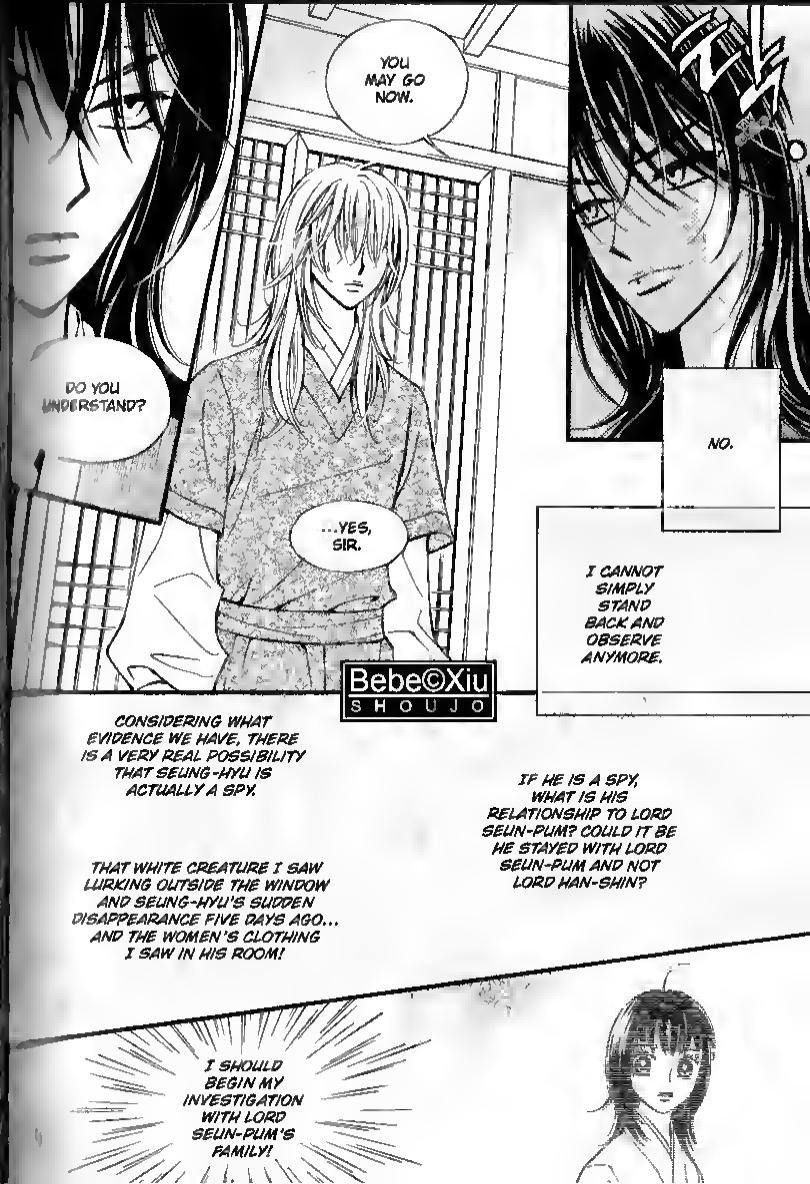
I'M SO GLAD TO HEAR THAT HE'S BETTER.
HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY RECALL SOMETHING THAT NEVER HAPPENED?
DAMN THAT LITTLE...!
HOW DARE HE TRY TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME?! HOW DARE HE...?!
HA HA—
I'VE WELCOMED A FOX INTO MY OWN HOME!
WHY WOULD HE LIE ABOUT STAYING WITH LORD HAN-SHIN IN THE FIRST PLACE?
HE HAS NO MEMORY OF HIS PAST, SO WHAT POSSIBLE BENEFIT IS THERE IN DECEIVING US ALL?

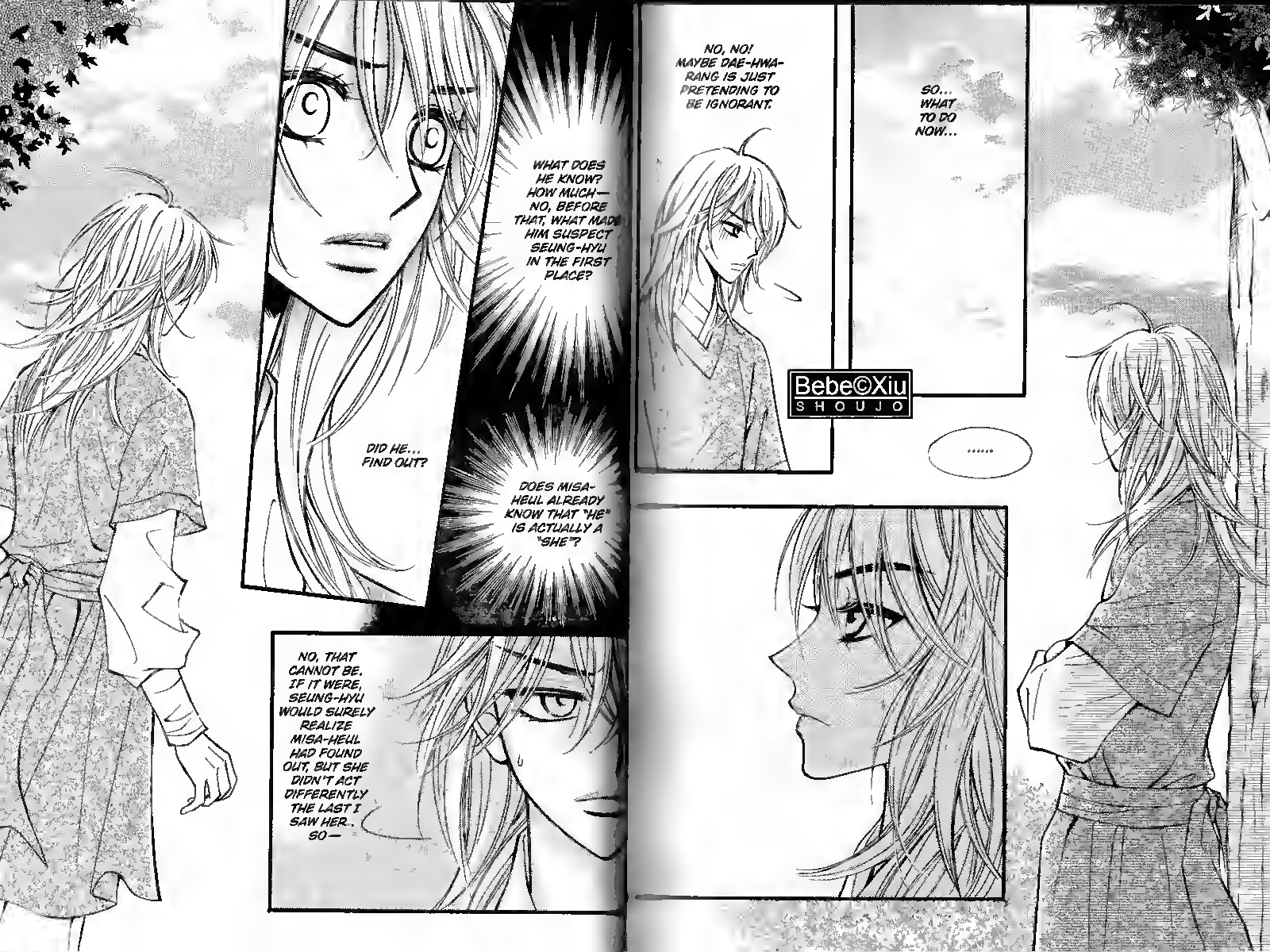
UNLESS— HE'S LYING ABOUT LOSING HIS MEMORIES?
BebeⓒXiu
SHOUJO
ISN'T IT ODD THAT NO ONE IS LOOKING FOR HIM?
AND HE DOESN'T SEEM INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT WHERE HE CAME FROM EITHER.
SEUNG-HYU'S FAMILY?
...IT IS NOT SO RARE TO BE ORPHANED
MY SISTER IS THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE IN THIS WORLD

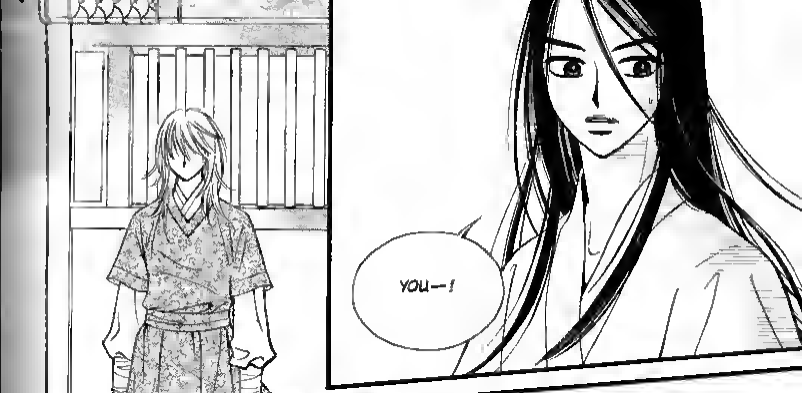
YES, THAT'S TRUE, BUT STILL—
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT?
WELL~ AS I GROW MORE AND MORE FOND OF HIM, I WONDER THESE THINGS.
YOU KNOW, ABOUT WHAT HIS LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE HE CAME HERE.
KEUMORI SSOOO
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NO, NOTHING.
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO

ARE YOU JEALOUS THAT I KEEP HIM SO CLOSE?
NOT AT ALL! I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR TAKING GOOD CARE OF HIM, GIVEN HIS DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.
I JUST WORRY THAT HIS RECKLESSNESS WILL ONLY CAUSE YOU TROUBLE.
THAT IS TRUE. HE STICKS HIS NOSE IN EVERYWHERE LIKE A RAT.
I KNEW IT—!
IF YOU'D RATHER HE STAY WITH ME—
NO!

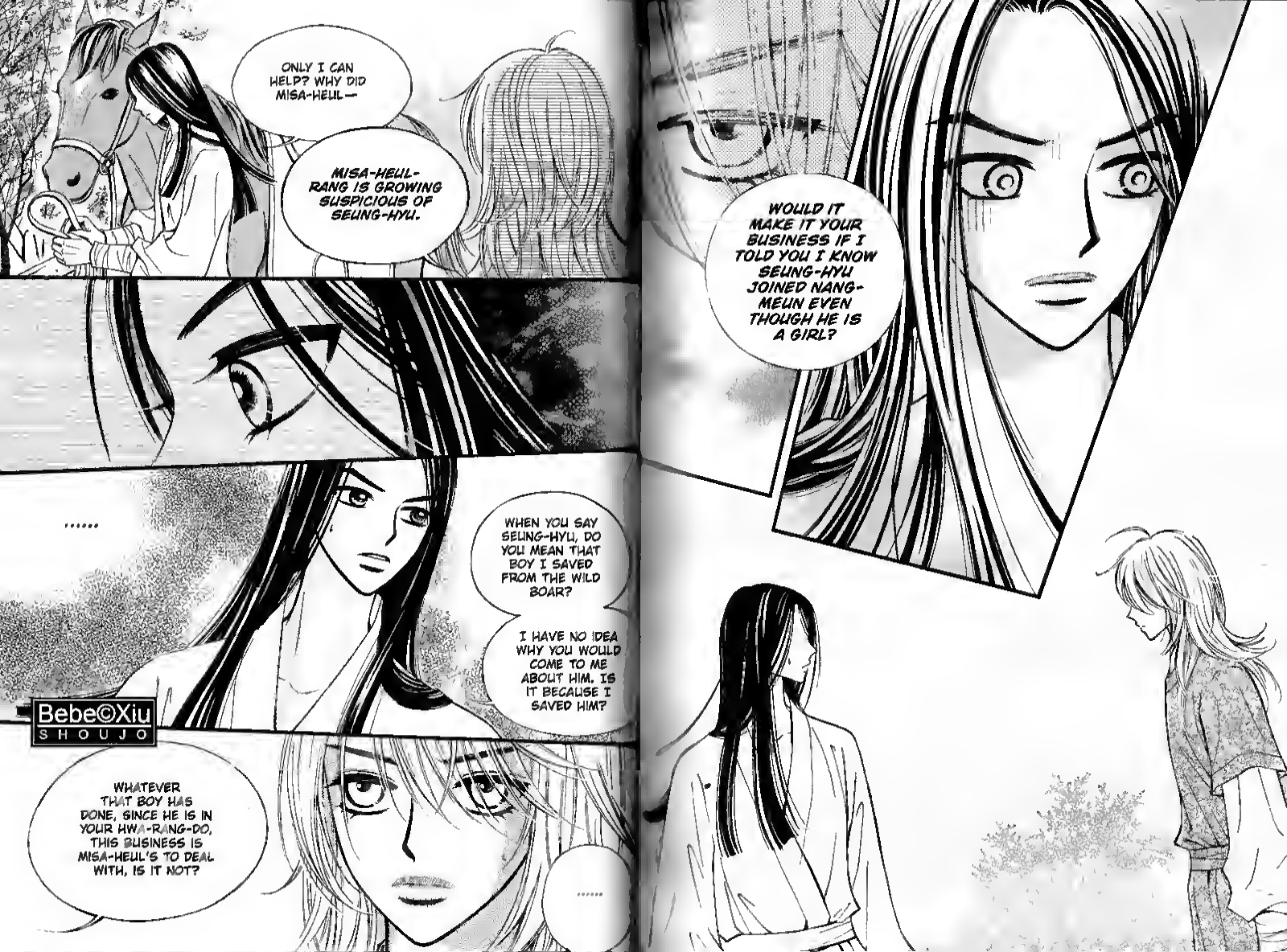
I CANNOT ALLOW THAT NOW, KNOWING HOW CLOSELY I MUST KEEP AN EYE ON SEUNG-HYU.
IF I HAD INTENDED TO BE STRICT WITH HIM OVER TRIFLES, I WOULD NEVER HAVE INVITED HIM INTO MY HOME TO BEGIN WITH!
HOW IS SEUNG-HYU LATELY? IS HE TRAINING HARD?
HE PERFORMS HIS DUTIES.
I'VE HEARD HE OFTEN LEAVES NANG-MEUN. DO YOU KNOW WHOM HE IS MEETING?
I ONLY KNOW THAT HE OCCASIONALLY GOES TO SEE A GIRL NAMED SO-DAN.
.....
JA-YUN! YOU HAVE TO LOOK AFTER HIM MORE THAN EVER BEFORE.
MAKE SURE HE DOES NOT LEAVE NANG-MEUN WITHOUT AN EXPLICIT REASON, AND DO NOT LET HIM SLIP OFF TO MEET WITH ANYONE WHO ISN'T PART OF OUR HWA-RANG-DO!

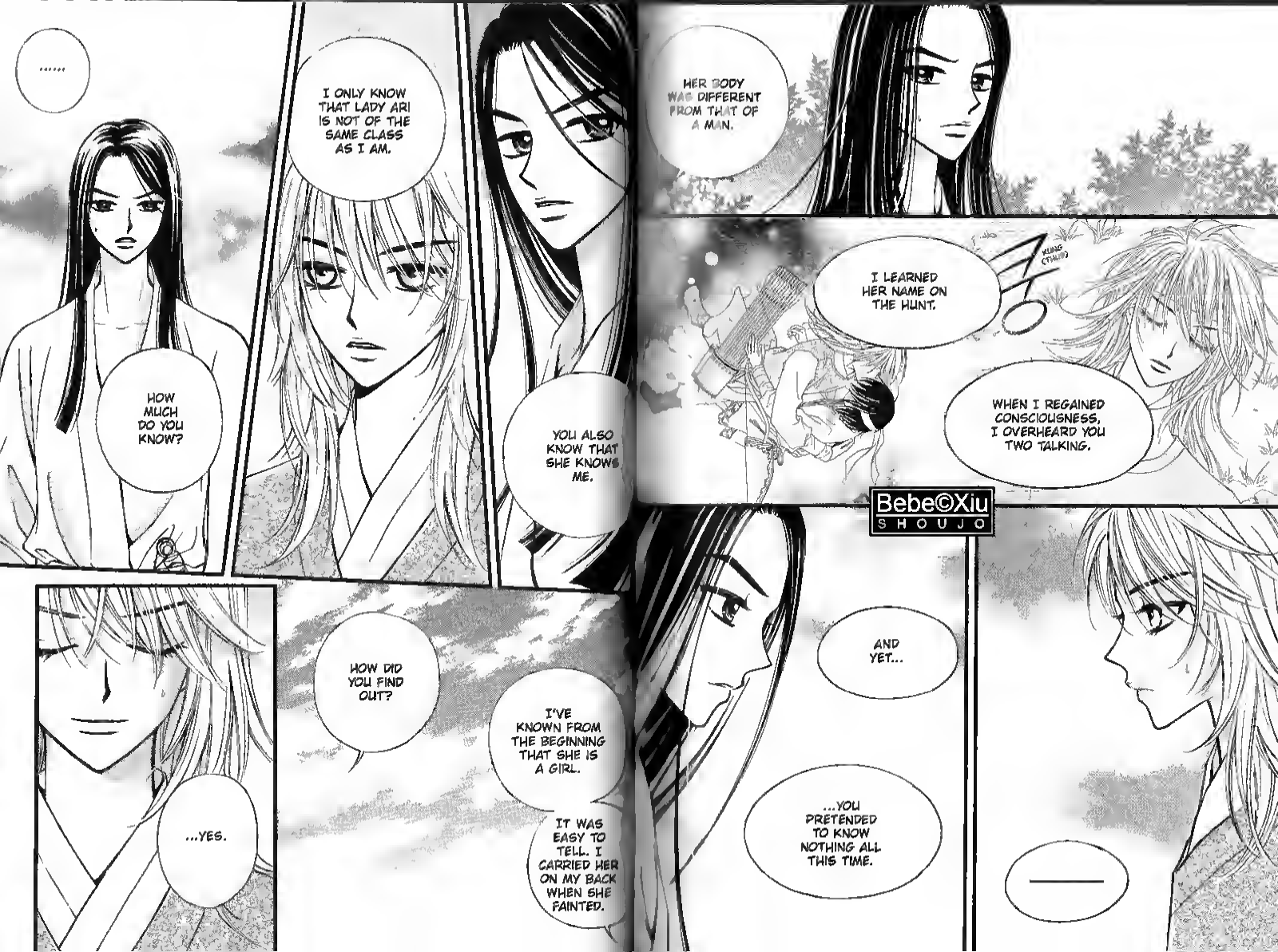

YOU MAY GO NOW.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
...YES, SIR.
NO.
I CANNOT SIMPLY STAND BACK AND OBSERVE ANYMORE.
BebeXiu SHOUJO
CONSIDERING WHAT EVIDENCE WE HAVE, THERE IS A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY THAT SEUNG-HYU IS ACTUALLY A SPY.
IF HE IS A SPY, WHAT IS HIS RELATIONSHIP TO LORD SEUN-PUM? COULD IT BE HE STAYED WITH LORD SEUN-PUM AND NOT LORD HAN-SHIN?
THAT WHITE CREATURE I SAW LURKING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW AND SEUNG-HYU'S SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE FIVE DAYS AGO... AND THE WOMEN'S CLOTHING I SAW IN HIS ROOM!
I SHOULD BEGIN MY INVESTIGATION WITH LORD SEUN-PUM'S FAMILY!


NO, NO! MAYBE DAE-HWA-RANG IS JUST PRETENDING TO BE IGNORANT.
SO... WHAT TO DO NOW...
BebeXiu SHOUJO
.....
WHAT DOES HE KNOW? HOW MUCH— NO, BEFORE THAT, WHAT MADE HIM SUSPECT SEUNG-HYU IN THE FIRST PLACE?
DID HE... FIND OUT?
DOES MISA-HEUL ALREADY KNOW THAT "HE" IS ACTUALLY A "SHE"?
NO, THAT CANNOT BE. IF IT WERE, SEUNG-HYU WOULD SURELY REALIZE MISA-HEUL HAD FOUND OUT, BUT SHE DIDN'T ACT DIFFERENTLY THE LAST I SAW HER.. SO—



BebeXiu SHOUJO


ONLY I CAN HELP? WHY DID MISA-HEUL—
MISA-HEUL-RANG IS GROWING SUSPICIOUS OF SEUNG-HYU.
WOULD IT MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS IF I TOLD YOU I KNOW SEUNG-HYU JOINED NANG-MEUN EVEN THOUGH HE IS A GIRL?
.....
WHEN YOU SAY SEUNG-HYU, DO YOU MEAN THAT BOY I SAVED FROM THE WILD BOAR?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU WOULD COME TO ME ABOUT HIM. IS IT BECAUSE I SAVED HIM?
WHATEVER THAT BOY HAS DONE, SINCE HE IS IN YOUR HWA-RANG-DO, THIS BUSINESS IS MISA-HEUL'S TO DEAL WITH, IS IT NOT?
.....
BebeXiu
SHOUJO


.....
I ONLY KNOW THAT LADY ARI IS NOT OF THE SAME CLASS AS I AM.
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?
YOU ALSO KNOW THAT SHE KNOWS ME.
HER BODY WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF A MAN.
I LEARNED HER NAME ON THE HUNT.
KUNG (THUD)
WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, I OVERHEARD YOU TWO TALKING.
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO
...YES.
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?
I'VE KNOWN FROM THE BEGINNING THAT SHE IS A GIRL.
IT WAS EASY TO TELL. I CARRIED HER ON MY BACK WHEN SHE FAINTED.
AND YET...
...YOU PRETENDED TO KNOW NOTHING ALL THIS TIME.
——

SEUNG CHANG
CHEOK CHANG
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
IS THAT ALL YOU KNOW?
SO, THERE'S MORE I DON'T KNOW ABOUT?
HE KNOWS VERY LITTLE.
YOU ARE PERHAPS MISA-HELL'S MOST TRUSTED NANG-DO. YOU DO REALIZE THAT WHAT YOU ARE DOING WOULD BE CONSIDERED TREASON AGAINST MISA-HELL, DO YOU NOT?
BebeXiu SHOUJO

I KNOW THAT I SHOULDN'T BE INTERFERING IN THIS MATTER, BUT I COULDN'T JUST FEIGN IGNORANCE WHEN LADY ARI IS IN CLEAR DANGER
PLEASE BELIEVE ME. I DID NOT MAKE THIS DECISION LIGHTLY.
WHAT REASON CAN YOU GIVE FOR WANTING TO HELP, KNOWING ALL THE REASONS NOT TO?
AS I SAID, IF HER TRUE IDENTITY IS REVEALED, MISA-HEUL WILL NOT OVERLOOK SUCH AN OFFENSE, AND—
LADY ARI IS THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO PUT ON THIS CHARADE. WHY SHOULD MISA-HEUL NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST HER?
I WANT TO PROTECT HER FROM MISA-HEUL-RANG.
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO

I SEE.
VERY WELL. I UNDERSTAND. WHEN I DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU, I WILL CONTACT YOU.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME—
I KNOW BETTER THAN YOU HOW LITTLE TIME WE HAVE! NOW GO!
.....
YES, SIR.
——
MISA-HEUL IS BEGINNING TO SUSPECT HER?

HA!
FIRST JE-RYONG, NOW EVEN MISA-HEUL IS INVOLVED!
THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO GROW MORE AND MORE DANGEROUS.
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT MADE MISA-HEUL BEGIN TO DOUBT HER, BUT WHEN HE MAKES HIS MOVE, IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE FINDS OUT LADY ARI'S TRUE IDENTITY.
NANG-MEUN IS NO LONGER SAFE.
I MUST GET HER OUT OF THERE AND HIDE HER BEFORE HE DISCOVERS SHE IS LORD SEON-PUM'S DAUGHTER!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT LORD ICHAN SEON-PUM?

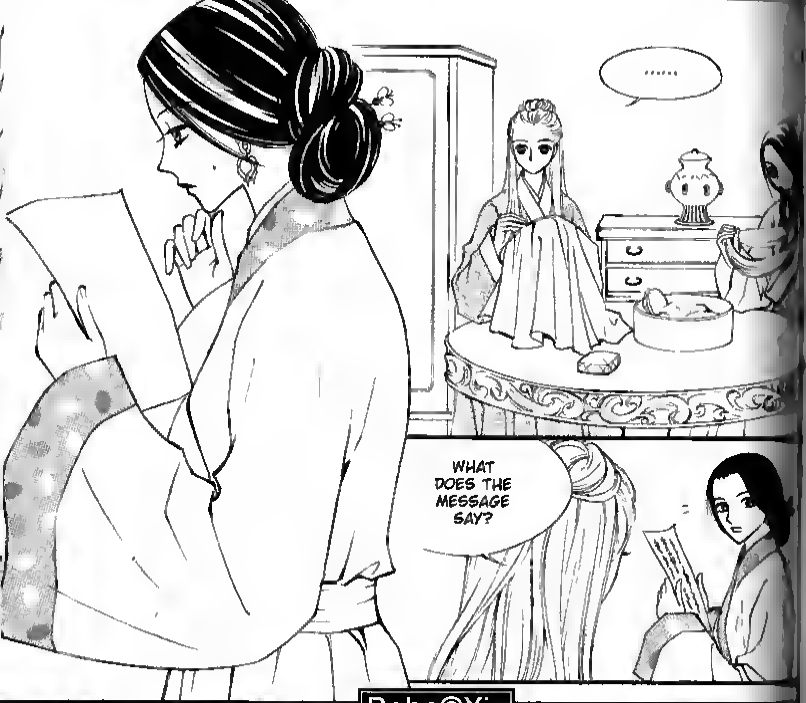
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO

YES, MOTHER.
WHY DO YOU ASK ALL OF A SUDDEN? I THOUGHT HE HAD LEFT SHILLA AND WAS TRAVELING TO THE TANG DYNASTY AS A DIPLOMAT.
I WAS WONDERING ABOUT HIS SON.
IT SEEMS HIS SON HAS NOT YET ENLISTED AT SEONDO-MEUN...
I AM SURE HIS SON POSSESSES GREAT TALENT, SO I WANTED TO INVITE HIM TO JOIN MY HWA-RANG-DO.
OH! BUT MISA-HEUL, HE IS TOO YOUNG TO BE A NANG-DO.
HE IS STILL JUST A BABY.
!

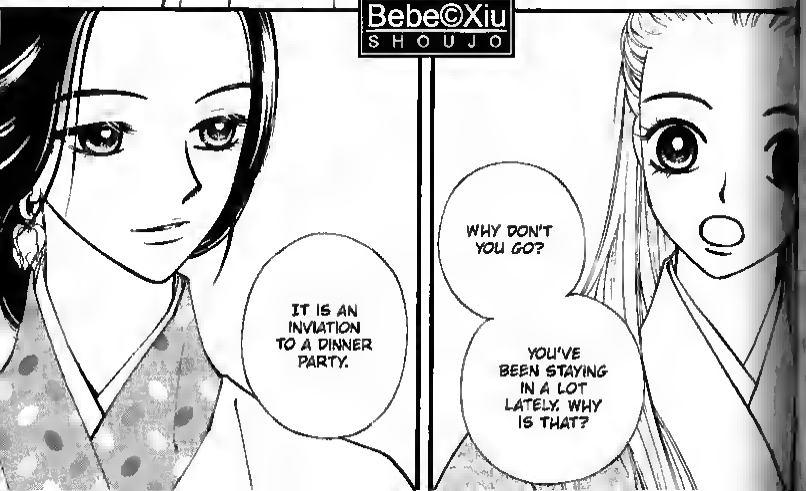
DID I GET IT ALL WRONG?
THAT YOUNG? DOESN'T HE HAVE AN OLDER SON?
NO, SUN-WON IS ONLY SEVEN YEARS OLD. HE IS THE YOUNGEST IN THE FAMILY.
YOU MUST BE GETTING HIM CONFUSED WITH THEIR ELDEST DAUGHTER.
A DAUGHTER, YOU SAY? HOW OLD IS SHE?
WELL—MAYBE... SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN? I AM NOT QUITE CERTAIN.
!!
COULD IT BE...?

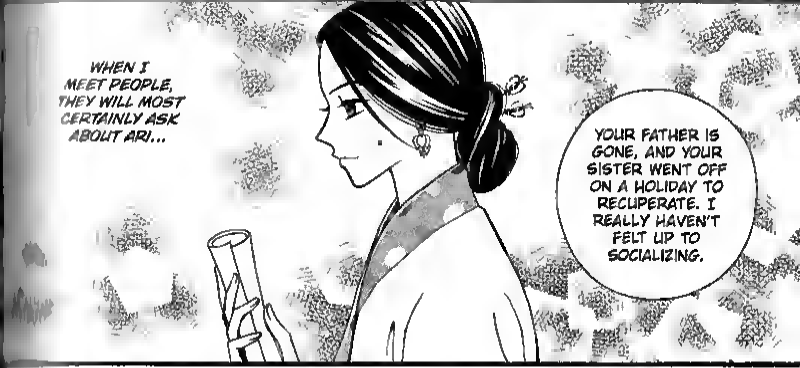
BebeXiu SHOUJO

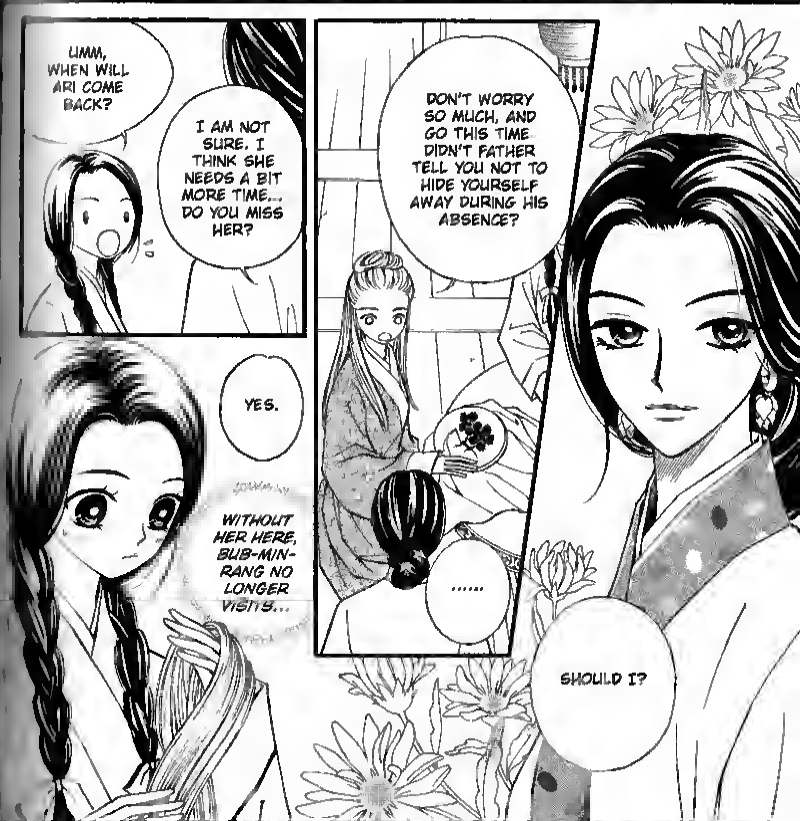
...DO YOU KNOW...
...WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE?
I HAVE NEVER SEEN HER, BUT IF SHE LOOKS ANYTHING LIKE BO-RYONG, I EXPECT SHE IS VERY BEAUTIFUL.
GOODNESS, I CANNOT BELIEVE HER FIRST CHILD IS ALREADY OF MARRYING AGE.
BebeOXiu
SHOUJO
COME TO THINK OF IT, BO-RYONG HAS KEPT TO HERSELF THESE PAST FEW MONTHS. SHE HASN'T ATTENDED A SINGLE PARTY.
I HAD BETTER ORGANIZE A PARTY AND INVITE HER!
.....
WHEN YOU SET A DATE...
...PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ATTEND AS WELL!



Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO




WHEN I MEET PEOPLE, THEY WILL MOST CERTAINLY ASK ABOUT ARI...
YOUR FATHER IS GONE, AND YOUR SISTER WENT OFF ON A HOLIDAY TO RECUPERATE. I REALLY HAVEN'T FELT UP TO SOCIALIZING.


UMM, WHEN WILL ARI COME BACK?
I AM NOT SURE. I THINK SHE NEEDS A BIT MORE TIME... DO YOU MISS HER?
YES.
WITHOUT HER HERE, BUB-MIN-RANG NO LONGER VISITS...
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, AND GO THIS TIME DIDN'T FATHER TELL YOU NOT TO HIDE YOURSELF AWAY DURING HIS ABSENCE?
.....
SHOULD I?

WOW~!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A PARTY LIKE THIS BEFORE! THIS IS AMAZING!
.....
HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU'VE SEEN ONE OR NOT? DID YOU NOT SAY YOU'VE LOST YOUR MEMORIES?
U.R.K.
WELL, IT'S... IT'S OBVIOUS! HOW COULD A LOW-CLASS BOY LIKE ME EVER... I MEAN, IF I WAS A SERVANT AT A RICH LORD'S HOUSE, THEN MAYBE..
.....
!
TCH
BebeXiu
SHOUJO

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A TRY? YOU COULD DEMONSTRATE YOUR MANLINESS?
HUP!
NO THANKS! I DON'T LIKE ANYTHING THAT REQUIRES YOU TO HIT SOMETHING. VIOLENCE IS BAD!
GANJIL CTICKLE
I SAW IT IN MY HISTORY BOOK! IT'S A DICE GAME FROM THE SHILLA ERA!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO SEE IT FOR REAL~! I'M SO LUCKY!!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
STOP! STOP!
THEY ARE PLAYING JURYEONGGU.
JURYEONGGU? WHAT'S THAT?
BebeOXiu
SHOUJO
IT'S A GAME YOU PLAY WHEN YOU ARE DRINKING. ON YOUR TURN, YOU THROW A TUJA DIE AND DO AS IT INSTRUCTS.
OH! THAT GAME~! I'VE HEARD OF THAT!
HE SEEMS TO HAVE LANDED ON NONGMYEON NONGGWA: YOU MUST STAY STILL WHILE YOU ARE TICKLED.
HERE WE GO!
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS REALLY IS HIS FIRST PARTY.

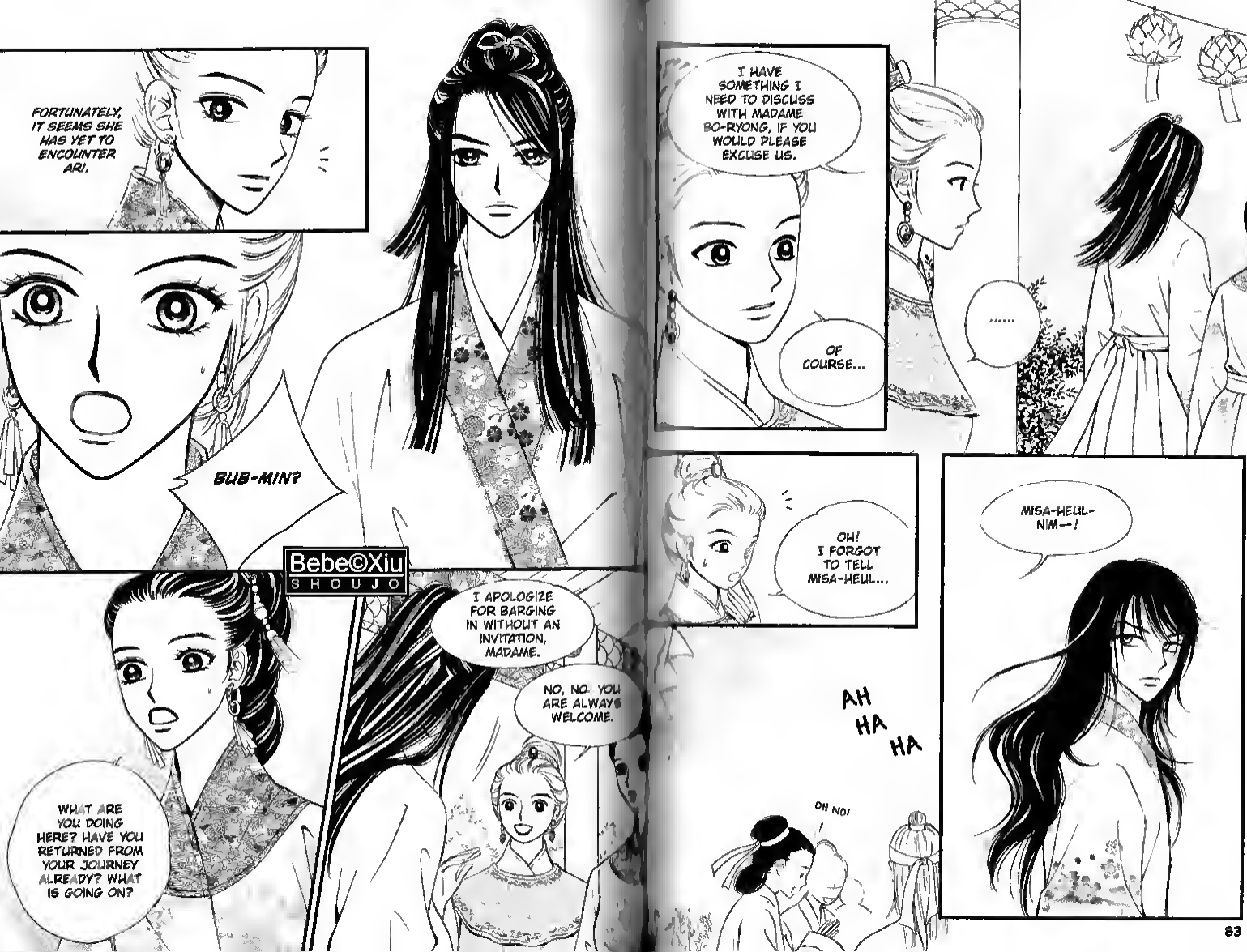
I WANT TO PROTECT HER FROM MISA-HEUL-RANG.
IF ARI HEARD JA-YUN SAY THAT, SHE WOULD BE THRILLED.
BebeXiu SHOUJO
.....
DAE-HWA-RANG...?
...I DO NOT DOUBT THAT IN YOUR HEART YOU CARE FOR LADY ARI.
HOWEVER, I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OTHER PLANS BREWING IN YOUR HEAD!
I MEAN THE WAY YOU TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO "CHANGE HORSES," AS IT WERE
HOW CAN YOU SAY I'VE "CHANGED HORSES"? IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO SAY THE HORSE HAS SOUGHT OUT A MORE TRUSTWORTHY MASTER.
!
HA HA!
I LIKE YOUR SPIRIT.
FINE! FROM NOW ON, CLOSELY MONITOR MISA-HEUL'S MOVEMENTS. FIND OUT HOW MUCH HE KNOWS.
IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF YOU COULD JOIN HIS INVESTIGATION AND CONFUSE HIS EFFORTS FROM THE INSIDE.

BY THE WAY...
...HOW HAS LADY ARI BEEN OF LATE?
YES, SIR.
SHE WASN'T AT NANG-MEUN TODAY.
WHY? HAS SHE TAKEN ILL?
MISA-HEUL-RANG'S MOTHER IS HOSTING A BANQUET, AND HE ASKED LADY ARI TO COME ALONG.
WHAT?!
KWANG (CRASH)
WHAT DID YOU SAY? MISA-HEUL TOOK ARI TO A BANQUET?

YES, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.
JA-YUN, GO BACK TO NANG-MEUN. I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE FOR THIS BANQUET.
!
COULD MISA-HEUL HAVE BROUGHT HER THERE FOR A REASON...?
DAGAK DAGAK (GALLOP)
THIS COULD MEAN TERRIBLE TROUBLE!

BebeXiu SHOUJO

WHAT IF SOMEONE WHO KNOWS ARI'S FACE SEES THEM?
WHAT IF... MADAME BO-RYONG IS THERE?!
BebeXiu SHOUJO
I HOPE I AM NOT TOO LATE!!
WHOA!
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM UBANG DAE-HWA-RANG BUB-MIN KIM. SURELY I AM ALLOWED TO COME IN?
OH—!
WHERE IS THE RECEPTION AREA FOR NOBLE GUESTS...?
AS I FEARED... SHE IS HERE.
HM?

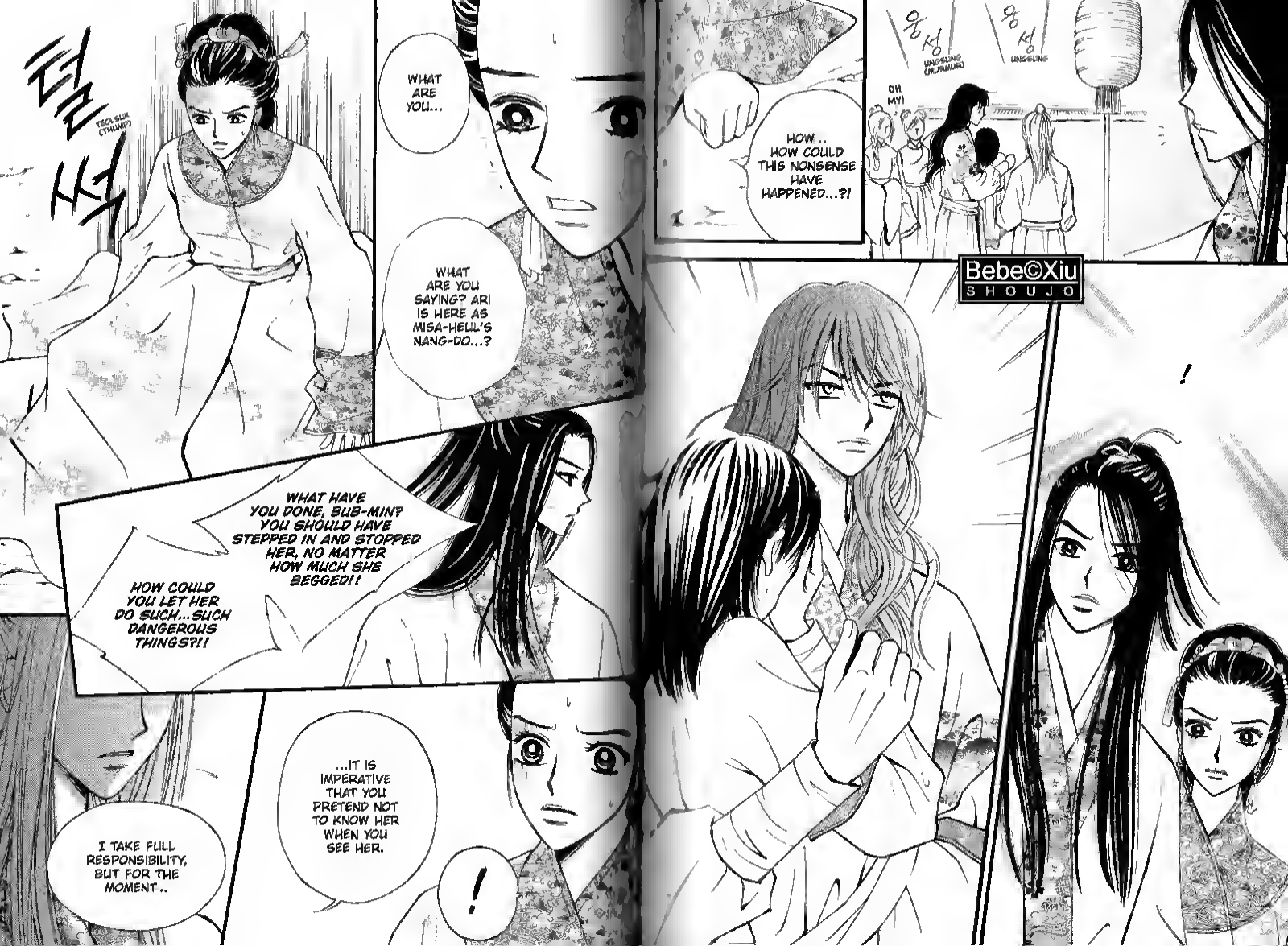

FORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS SHE HAS YET TO ENCOUNTER ARI.
BUB-MIN?
I APOLOGIZE FOR BARGING IN WITHOUT AN INVITATION, MADAME.
NO, NO. YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? HAVE YOU RETURNED FROM YOUR JOURNEY ALREADY? WHAT IS GOING ON?
I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DISCUSS WITH MADAME BO-RYONG, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE EXCUSE US.
OF COURSE...
.....
OH! I FORGOT TO TELL MISA-HEUL...
AH HA HA
OH NO!
MISA-HEUL-NIM—!
BebeXiu
SHOUJO

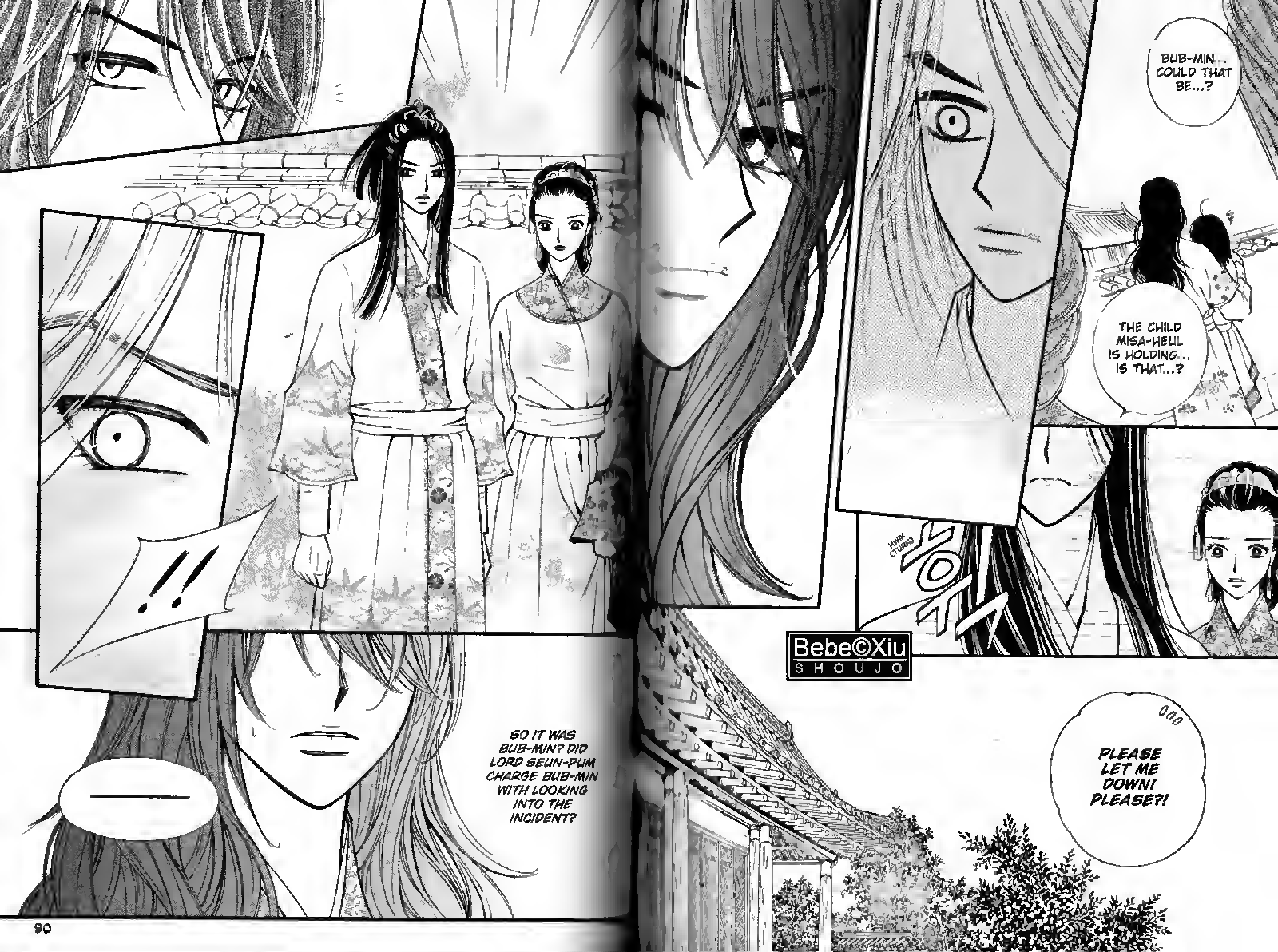
MADAME IS LOOKING FOR YOU. SHE SAYS THERE IS SOMEONE SHE WANTS YOU TO MEET.
WHO?
LORD SEON-PUM'S WIFE, MADAME BO-RYONG.
DEUNGCHI
TUK (DROP)

BebeOXiu SHOUJO

.....
YOUR STOMACH HURTS?
EEEEK?!!
YEAH... IT MUST HAVE BEEN THAT FOOD I ATE.
JUST LEAVE ME AND GO ON AHEAD—
URGH!
IS IT THAT BAD?
YEAH... IT FEELS LIKE MY INTESTINES ARE ALL TANGLED UP..

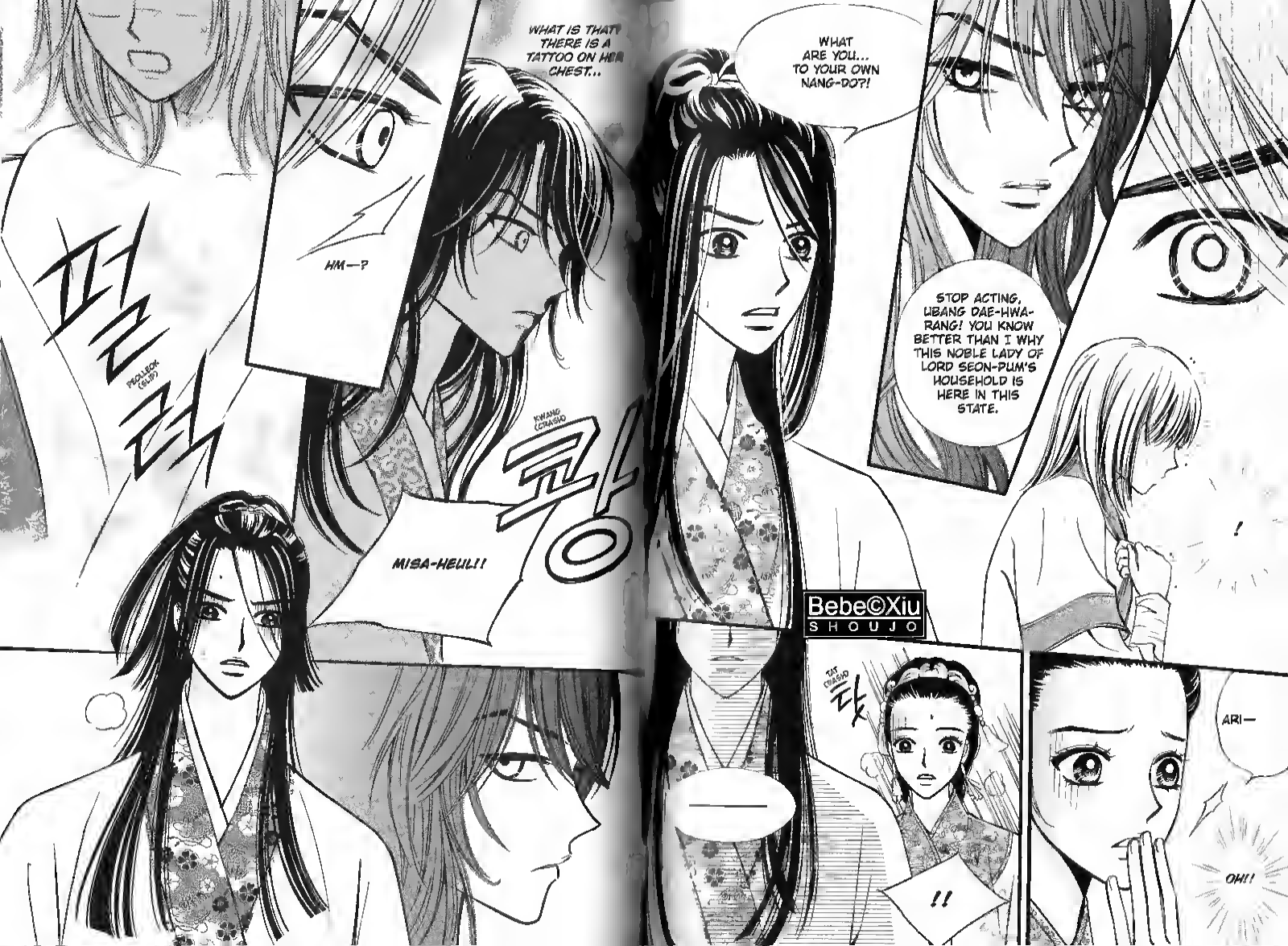
W-WAIT...!
YES, SIR...
IF IT PAINS YOU THAT MUCH, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD EVEN BE WALKING AROUND. LET ME CARRY YOU TO A ROOM.
AND YOU THERE, FETCH A DOCTOR!
I CAN WALK BY MYSELF!
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO~?.I'M GOING CRAZY!!
LET ME DOWN!! YOU—!!
BebeXiu
SHOUJO

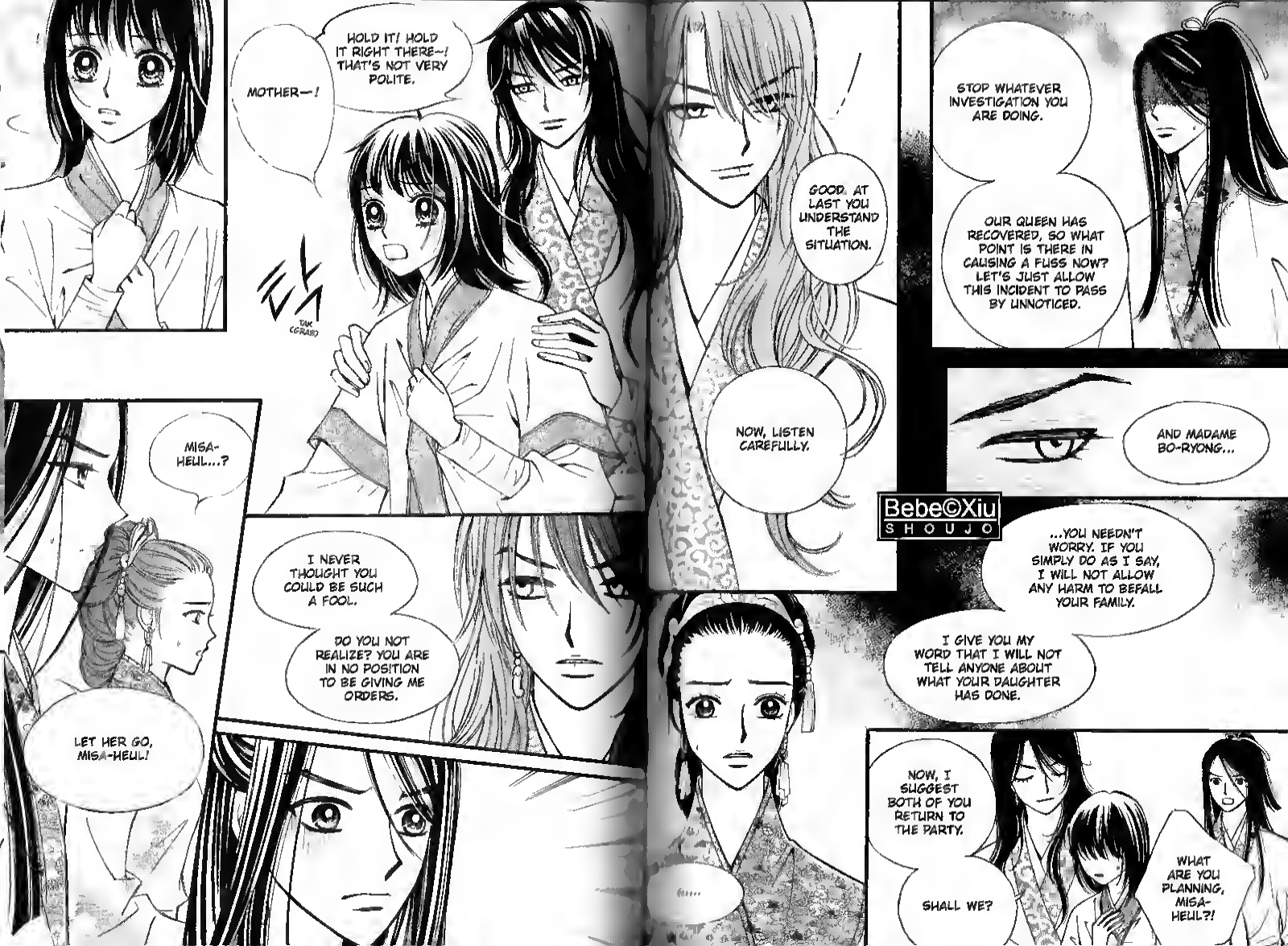

TEOLSUK (THUMP)
WHAT ARE YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ARI IS HERE AS MISA-HELL'S NANG-DO...?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, BUB-MIN? YOU SHOULD HAVE STEPPED IN AND STOPPED HER, NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE BEGGED!!
HOW COULD YOU LET HER DO SUCH...SUCH DANGEROUS THINGS?!!
I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, BUT FOR THE MOMENT..
...IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU PRETEND NOT TO KNOW HER WHEN YOU SEE HER.
!
HOW.. HOW COULD THIS NONSENSE HAVE HAPPENED...?!
UNGSUNG (MURMUR)
UNGSUNG
OH MY!
BebeXiu
SHOUJO
!


!!
SO IT WAS BUB-MIN? DID LORD SEUN-PUM CHARGE BUB-MIN WITH LOOKING INTO THE INCIDENT?
BUB-MIN.. COULD THAT BE...?
THE CHILD MISA-HELL IS HOLDING.. IS THAT...?
HWIK (TURD)
PLEASE LET ME DOWN! PLEASE?!
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO

.....
NOW THAT NO ONE IS LOOKING, YOUR ATTITUDE HAS CERTAINLY TAKEN A TURN, EH? ARE YOU FEELING BETTER ALREADY?
I'M TOO SHOCKED TO EVEN THINK ABOUT THE PAIN!
BebeXiu SHOUJO
OH? THEN WHY DON'T WE RETURN TO THE PARTY?
I DON'T WANNA!!
WHAT...?
WHY DON'T YOU EVER LISTEN TO WHAT I WANT? YOU ALWAYS DO THAT! YOU ALWAYS DO WHATEVER YOU FEEL LIKE!
I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT TO MEET ANYONE, SO WHY ARE YOU FORCING ME TO? WHY?!
SILENCE! HOW DARE YOU SHOUT AT ME?!
HEUMCHAT (SHOUT)
YOU'VE GROWN EVEN MORE INSOLENT SINCE I KINDLY ASKED YOU ALONG WITH ME!
KUNG (GROUND)
AND JUST WHY IS THAT? IS IT BECAUSE YOU KNOW YOU HAVE BACK UP?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR SINCE MOMMY IS HERE?

WH-WHAT DID HE SAY? D-DOES HE KNOW...?
IS HE JUST FISHING? IS HE TESTING ME TO SEE IF I'LL GIVE SOMETHING AWAY...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I'M AN ORPHAN... A JOKE LIKE THAT IS—
KWANG COLLAPSED
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY WANT SO BADLY THAT WOULD MAKE YOU TELL SUCH A LIE, SAYING THAT YOUR PARENTS ARE DEAD WHEN THEY ARE ALIVE AND WELL? YOU ARE THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF LORD ICHAN SEON-PUM...
...WHAT IS YOUR NAME AGAIN? ARI?
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
WHO'S ARI? SHE MUST LOOK A LOT LIKE ME. I KNOW I LOOK LIKE A GIRL, BUT AS YOU KNOW—
YOU INTEND TO KEEP UP YOUR CHARADE UNTIL THE VERY LAST MOMENT, EH?
HWAK (SPRAIN)
HOW WILL YOUR STORY HOLD UP AFTER I DO THIS?
EEK?!
TUSUDUDUK (RIPPING)
NOOOOO!!

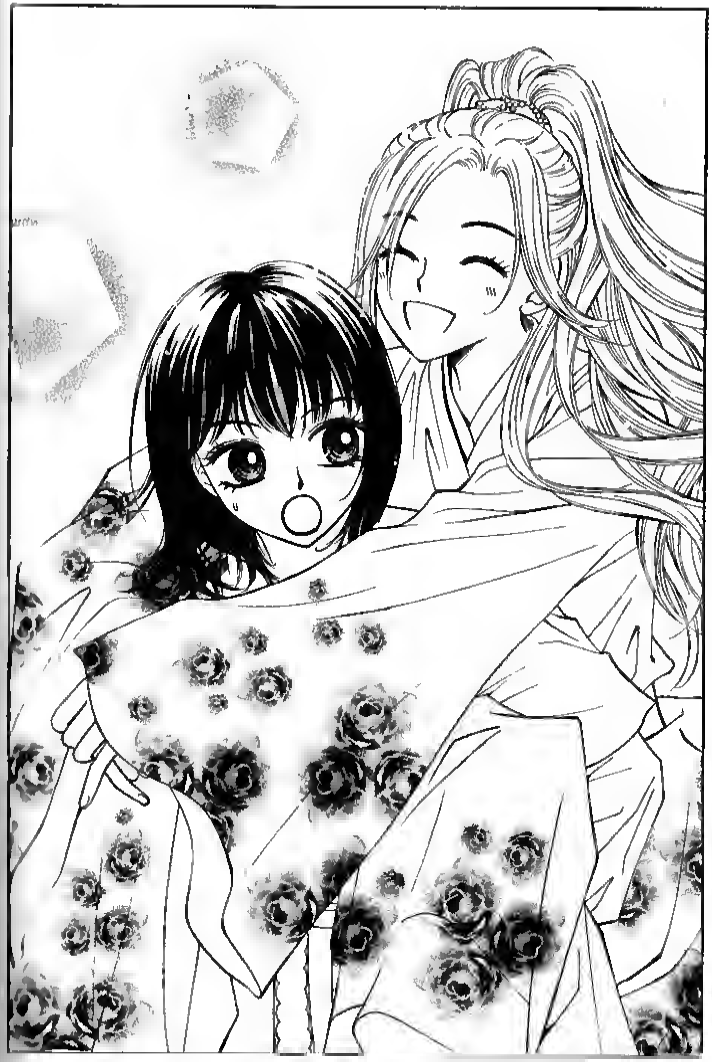

WHAT IS THAT? THERE IS A TATTOO ON HER CHEST...
HM—?
MISA-HEUL!!
WHAT ARE YOU... TO YOUR OWN NANG-DO?!
STOP ACTING, UBANG DAE-HWA-RANG! YOU KNOW BETTER THAN I WHY THIS NOBLE LADY OF LORD SEON-PUM'S HOUSEHOLD IS HERE IN THIS STATE.
!
ARI—
OH!!
!!
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO


MOTHER—!
HOLD IT! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE—! THAT'S NOT VERY POLITE.
TAK (GRAB)
GOOD. AT LAST YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.
NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY.
STOP WHATEVER INVESTIGATION YOU ARE DOING.
OUR QUEEN HAS RECOVERED, SO WHAT POINT IS THERE IN CAUSING A FUSS NOW? LET'S JUST ALLOW THIS INCIDENT TO PASS BY UNNOTICED.
AND MADAME BO-RYONG...
MISA-HEUL...?
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD BE SUCH A FOOL.
DO YOU NOT REALIZE? YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO BE GIVING ME ORDERS.
LET HER GO, MISA-HEUL!
...YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. IF YOU SIMPLY DO AS I SAY, I WILL NOT ALLOW ANY HARM TO BEFALL YOUR FAMILY.
I GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT I WILL NOT TELL ANYONE ABOUT WHAT YOUR DAUGHTER HAS DONE.
.....
NOW, I SUGGEST BOTH OF YOU RETURN TO THE PARTY.
SHALL WE?
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING, MISA-HEUL?!
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO

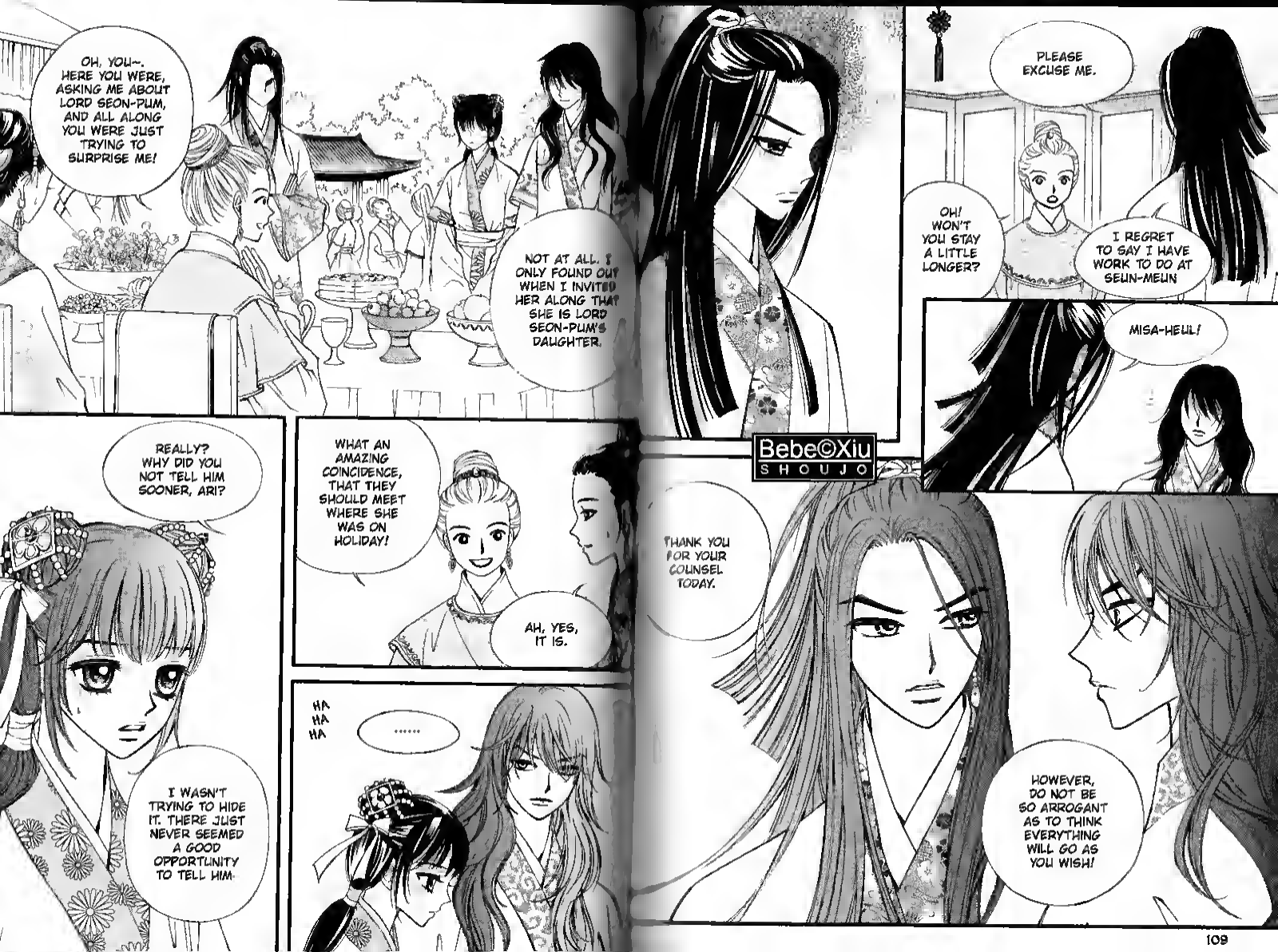
ISN'T IT HIGH TIME SHE GOT OUT OF THESE UNFLATTERING MEN'S GARMENTS?
OH...!
WHAT SHOULD I...? WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TEOLSEOK (FLAP)
GET CHANGED, AND JOIN ME AMONG THE OTHER GUESTS.
TAK (CLATCH)
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO PULL...?
MISA-HEUL!!
ONE DAY, I WILL END THAT MAN'S LIFE!
BebeOXiu
SHOUJO

HE'S REALLY SCARY!!
BebeOXiu SHOUJO
THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE! I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER.
HA HA HA
HA..
I KNEW SEUNG-HYU WAS A GIRL.
HOW STUPID OF THEM...WHAT COULD HAVE BLINDED THEM TO THE ABSURDITY OF THIS VENTURE?
SO...WHAT NOW?

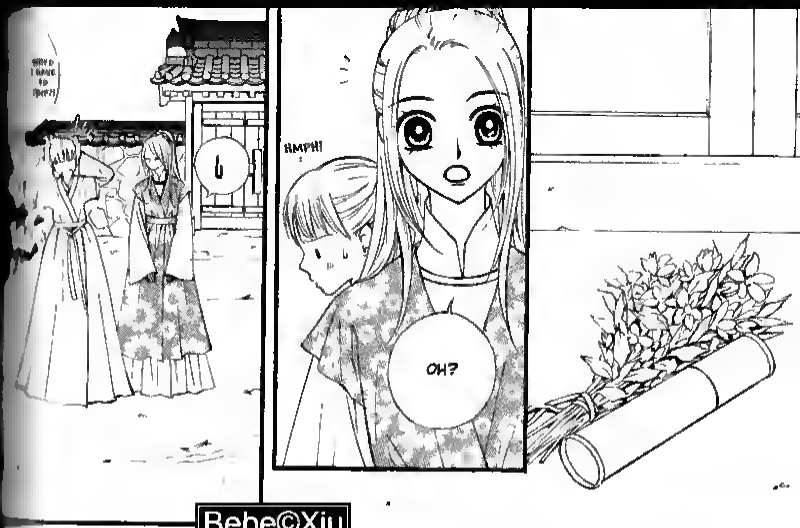
YES ..
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO
SOMEONE MUST TAKE THE BLAME.



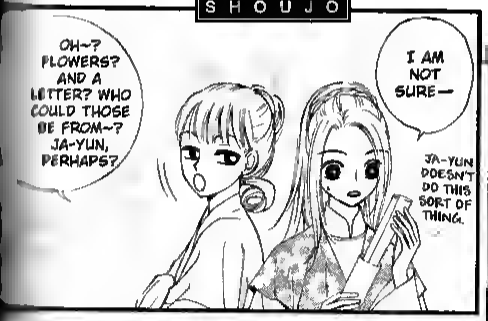
BebeXiu
SHOUJO
OH MY—

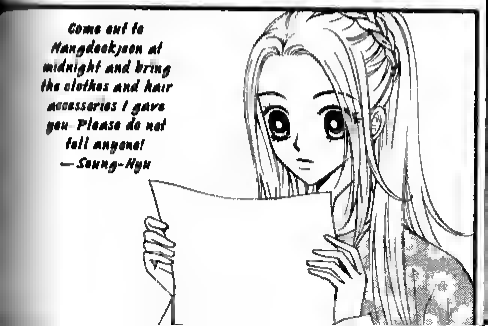

OH, YOU~. HERE YOU WERE, ASKING ME ABOUT LORD SEON-PUM, AND ALL ALONG YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO SURPRISE ME!
NOT AT ALL. I ONLY FOUND OUT WHEN I INVITED HER ALONG THAT SHE IS LORD SEON-PUM'S DAUGHTER.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
OH! WON'T YOU STAY A LITTLE LONGER?
I REGRET TO SAY I HAVE WORK TO DO AT SEUN-MEUN
MISA-HEUL!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COUNSEL TODAY.
HOWEVER, DO NOT BE SO ARROGANT AS TO THINK EVERYTHING WILL GO AS YOU WISH!
REALLY? WHY DID YOU NOT TELL HIM SOONER, ARI?
I WASN'T TRYING TO HIDE IT. THERE JUST NEVER SEEMED A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TELL HIM.
WHAT AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE, THAT THEY SHOULD MEET WHERE SHE WAS ON HOLIDAY!
AH, YES, IT IS.
HA HA HA
.....
BebeOXiu SHOUJO

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE MY LEAVE NOW AS WELL...
..MOTHER—?
OH!
WAIT!
UMM... I...
BebeXiu SHOUJO
COULD YOU SPARE A MOMENT FOR A LITTLE CHAT BEFORE YOU LEAVE?
OH...
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU—
LADY ARI.
LOOK WHO IS STANDING NEXT TO MISA-HELL RANZU IS THAT NOT LORD SEON PUNG'S
DO YOU THINK THEY ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED?
NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT!
HAH! POMPOUS TO THE GRAVE, EH?



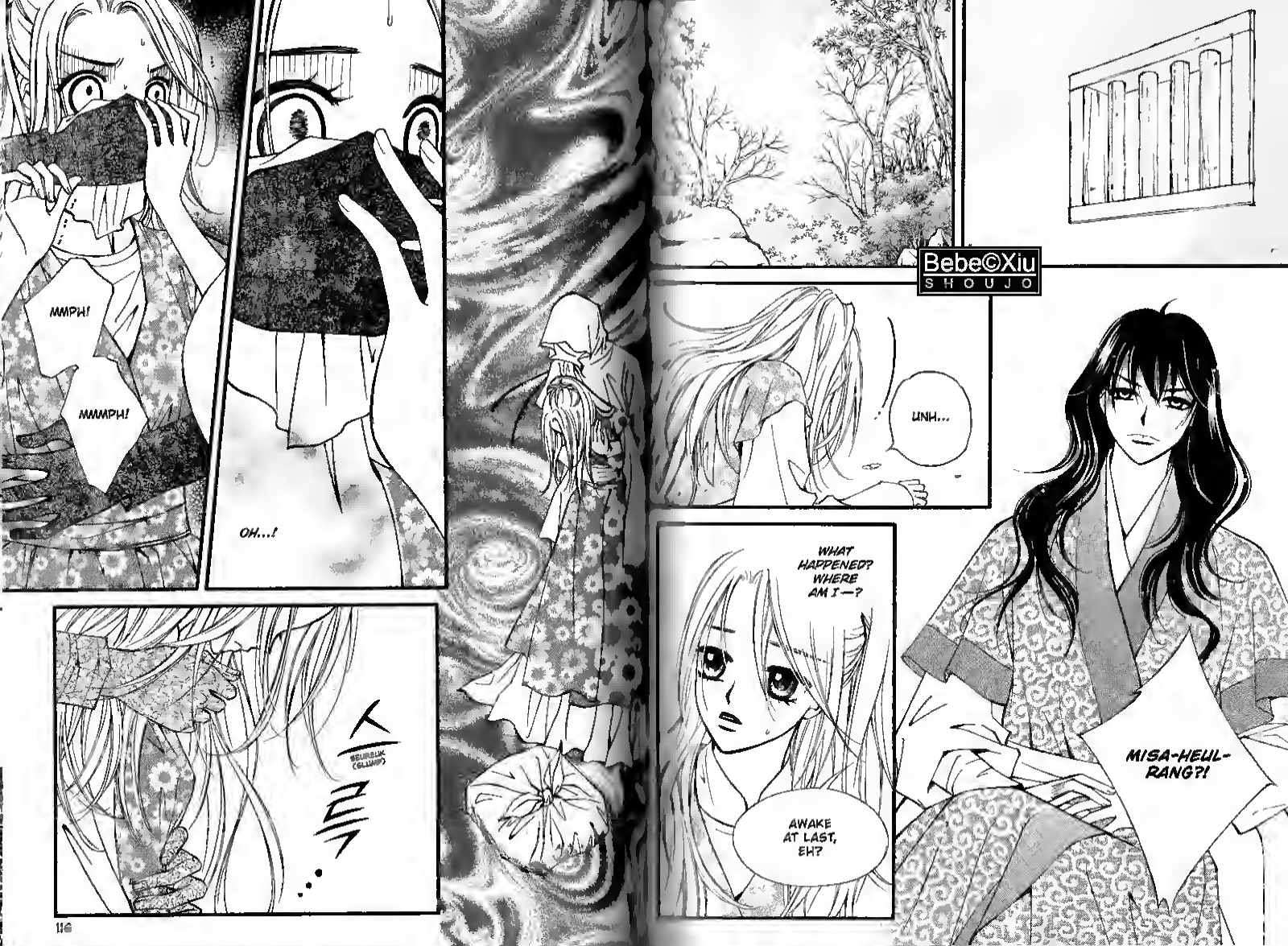
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO



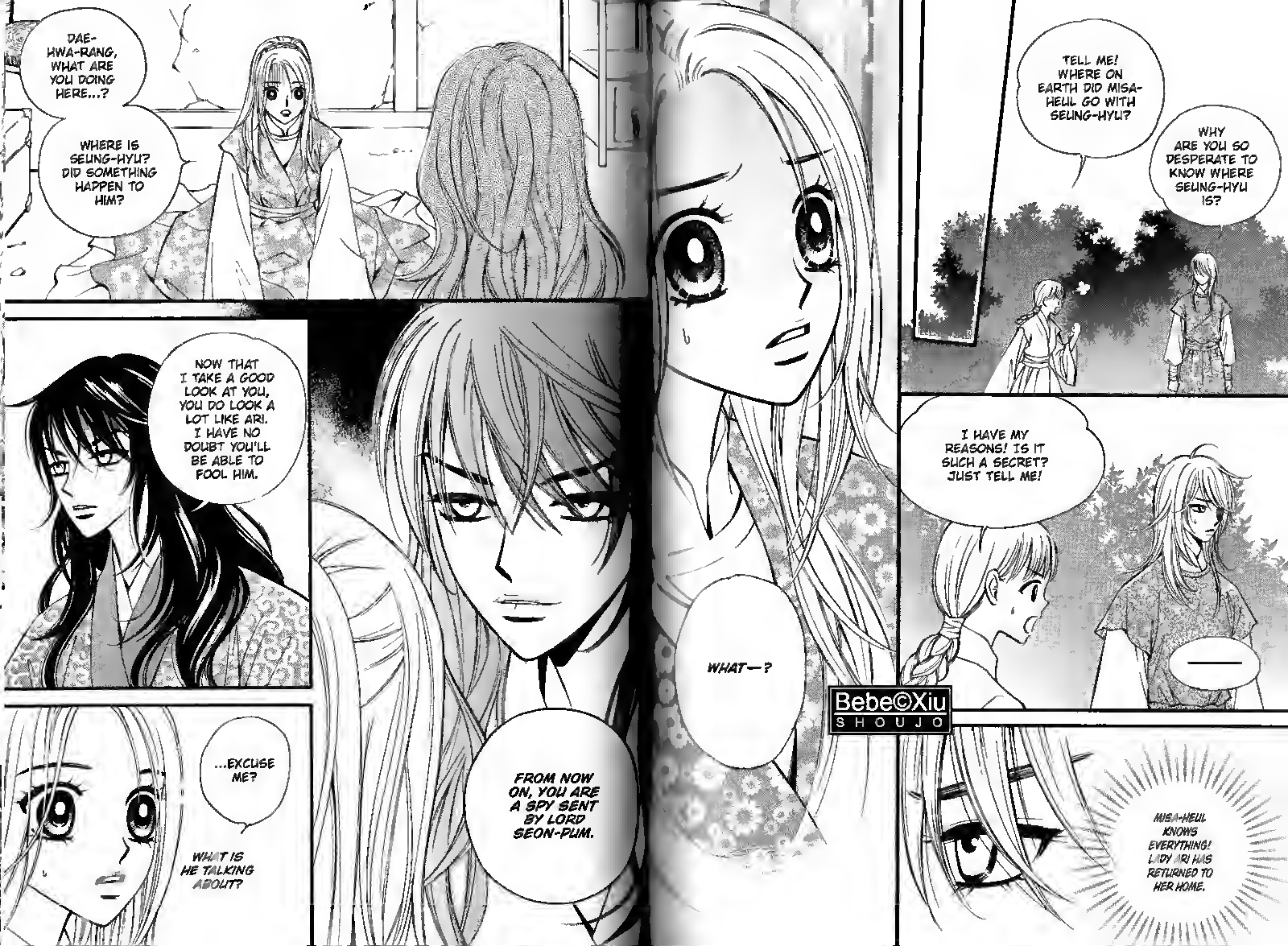

Come out to Hangdeokjeon at midnight and bring the clothes and hair accessories I gave you. Please do not tell anyone!
—Seung-Hyn

HOW SWEET. I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING A MAN LIKE JA-YUN EVEN IF HE IS ONLY A NANG-DO.
I SUPPOSE I WILL FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT WHEN I SEE HIM.
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO
WHY HASN'T HE COME YET? IT IS SCARY OUT HERE.
.....

AH, ENOUGH OF THIS. I WILL SEE HIM AT NANG-MEUN TOMORROW ANYWAY.
IT'S SEUNG-HYU'S OWN FAULT FOR BEING SO LATE!
OH, SEUNG-HYU~! YOU ARE SO LATE, I THOUGHT—
덥석
PEOBSEOK (GRAB)



Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO

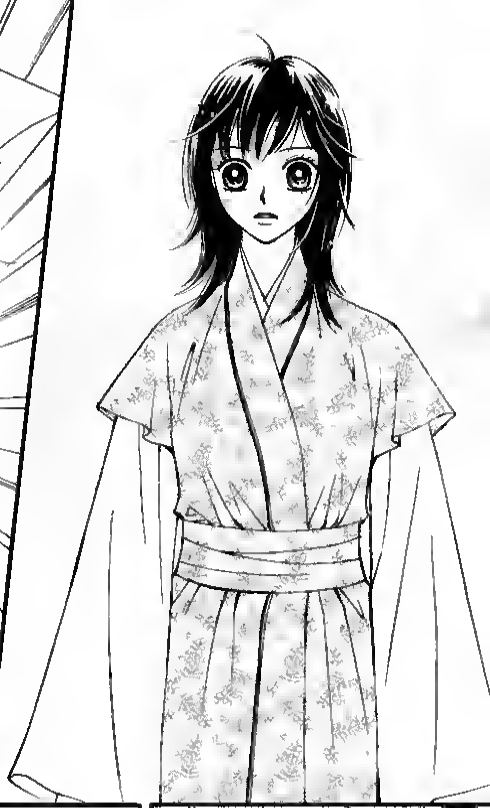

DAE-HWA-RANG, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
WHERE IS SEUNG-HYU? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HIM?
NOW THAT I TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOU, YOU DO LOOK A LOT LIKE ARI. I HAVE NO DOUBT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FOOL HIM.
...EXCUSE ME?
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
FROM NOW ON, YOU ARE A SPY SENT BY LORD SEON-PUM.
WHAT—?
TELL ME! WHERE ON EARTH DID MISA-HEUL GO WITH SEUNG-HYU?
WHY ARE YOU SO DESPERATE TO KNOW WHERE SEUNG-HYU IS?
I HAVE MY REASONS! IS IT SUCH A SECRET? JUST TELL ME!
——
MISA-HEUL KNOWS EVERYTHING! LADY ARI HAS RETURNED TO HER HOME.
BebeXiu SHOUJO

HER HOME... SHE IS THE FIRST DAUGHTER OF LORD SEON-PUM...
HE HAS REGAINED HIS MEMORIES AND GONE BACK TO HIS FAMILY. I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS
WHAT? HE WENT BACK HOME?
AHHH——!! SO-DAN'S GONE AND DONE IT NOW! SHE'S CRAZY! CRAZY, I TELL YOU!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SO-DAN HAS BEEN GONE FOR THREE DAYS! I'M POSITIVE SHE AND SEUNG-HYU RAN AWAY TOGETHER!
WHAT?
LOOK AT THIS! SO-DAN GOT THIS LOVE LETTER THREE DAYS AGO. I THOUGHT YOU HAD SENT IT TO HER, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ACTUALLY FROM SEUNG-HYU!
SEUNG-HYU SENT SO-DAN A MESSAGE?
...BUT WHY?

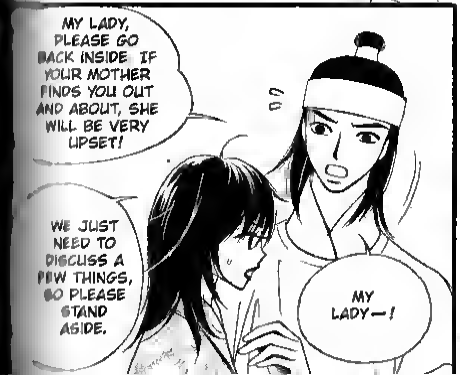
SO WHAT NOW, JA-YUN? HAVE YOU BEEN DUMPED? HOW COULD YOU LOSE TO THAT GIRLY BOY?
OH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT!
FOR GOODNESS' SAKE! I'VE TOLD YOU AND TOLD YOU! YOU CAN'T!

BebeXiu SHOUJO

NO, NO, NO! I HAVE STRICT ORDERS FROM OUR MISTRESS. IF I DISOBEY, I'LL BE FIRED! GO AWAY!
PLEASE, IF YOU WOULD JUST TELL HER THAT JA-YUN IS HERE—



BebeXiu SHOUJO


MY LADY, PLEASE GO BACK INSIDE. IF YOUR MOTHER FINDS YOU OUT AND ABOUT, SHE WILL BE VERY UPSET!
WE JUST NEED TO DISCUSS A FEW THINGS, SO PLEASE STAND ASIDE.
MY LADY—!

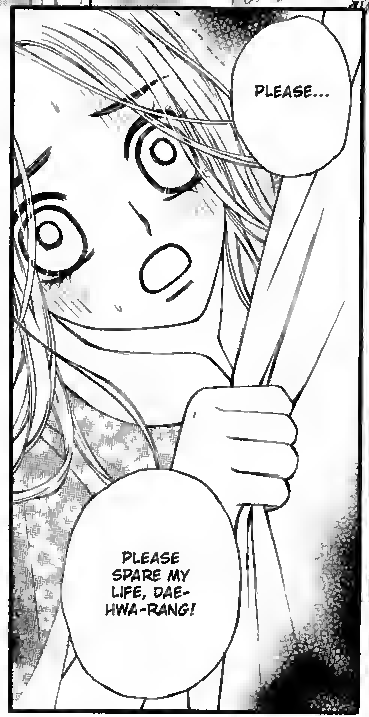
.....
WHERE HAVE I SEEN HIM BEFORE?
?
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
I HEARD FROM BUB-MIN-RANG, MY LADY.
!
.....
AH... I SEE...
HE'S BEING FORMAL WITH ME...
SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
PARDON ME FOR ASKING, BUT DID YOU MEET SO-DAN AT MIDNIGHT THREE DAYS AGO?
SHE SEEMS TO BE FINE...
HOW...
...HOW DID YOU FIND OUT I WAS HERE...?
THREE DAYS AGO? NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER FOR A WHILE. WHY DO YOU—
I KNEW IT...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO SO-DAN?

SHE IS MISSING.
HUH?
SHE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE SHE RECEIVED THAT LETTER. SOMEONE MUST HAVE USED YOUR NAME. CAN YOU THINK OF ANYONE WHO MIGHT HAVE DONE THIS?
.....
...THE CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES I GAVE HER?
Come out to Hangdaekjeon at midnight and bring the clothes and hair accessories I gave you.
THAT SO-DAN GIRL, DID YOU NOT BRING HER A GIFT?

BebeCXiu
SHOUJO

TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT THE SPYING YOU'VE BEEN DOING! WHOM YOU SAW AND WHAT YOU HEARD...EVERY LAST DETAIL!
IT'S MISA-HEUL...!
IT WAS MISA-HEUL! I'M TOTALLY SURE!
DAE-HWA-RANG DID THIS?
WE HAVE TO TELL BUB-MIN-RANG RIGHT NOW! QUICK, JA-YUN!
MY LADY?!
OH, MY LADY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! YOU MUSTN'T!!
LET GO OF ME! THIS IS SERIOUS!

SO, MISA-HEUL TOOK SO-DAN, DID HE?
IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN...
SORRY! I'LL BE BACK IN A FLASH!
I CAN SEE WHAT HIS INTENTIONS ARE!
...I DOUBT HE'S HOLDING HER AT HIS QUARTERS. HE WOULD NEVER BRING HER THERE, JUST IN CASE SOMEONE SAW!
TAKE THIS, JA-YUN!
UMM, SO... WHERE IS SHE, THEN? DO YOU HAVE ANY CLUES?
WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING. BUT I DO KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN LEAD US THERE!
WE ARE GOING TO JE-RYONG'S! SO-DAN MAY BE IN DANGER!!
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO



BebeXiu SHOUJO

YOU WERE AS GOOD AS DEAD THE MOMENT I CHOSE YOU.
AND YET, YOU FOOLISHLY BEG FOR YOUR LIFE TO BE SPARED. YOU'RE PATHETIC!
VERY WELL, THEN. LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE INCENTIVE!

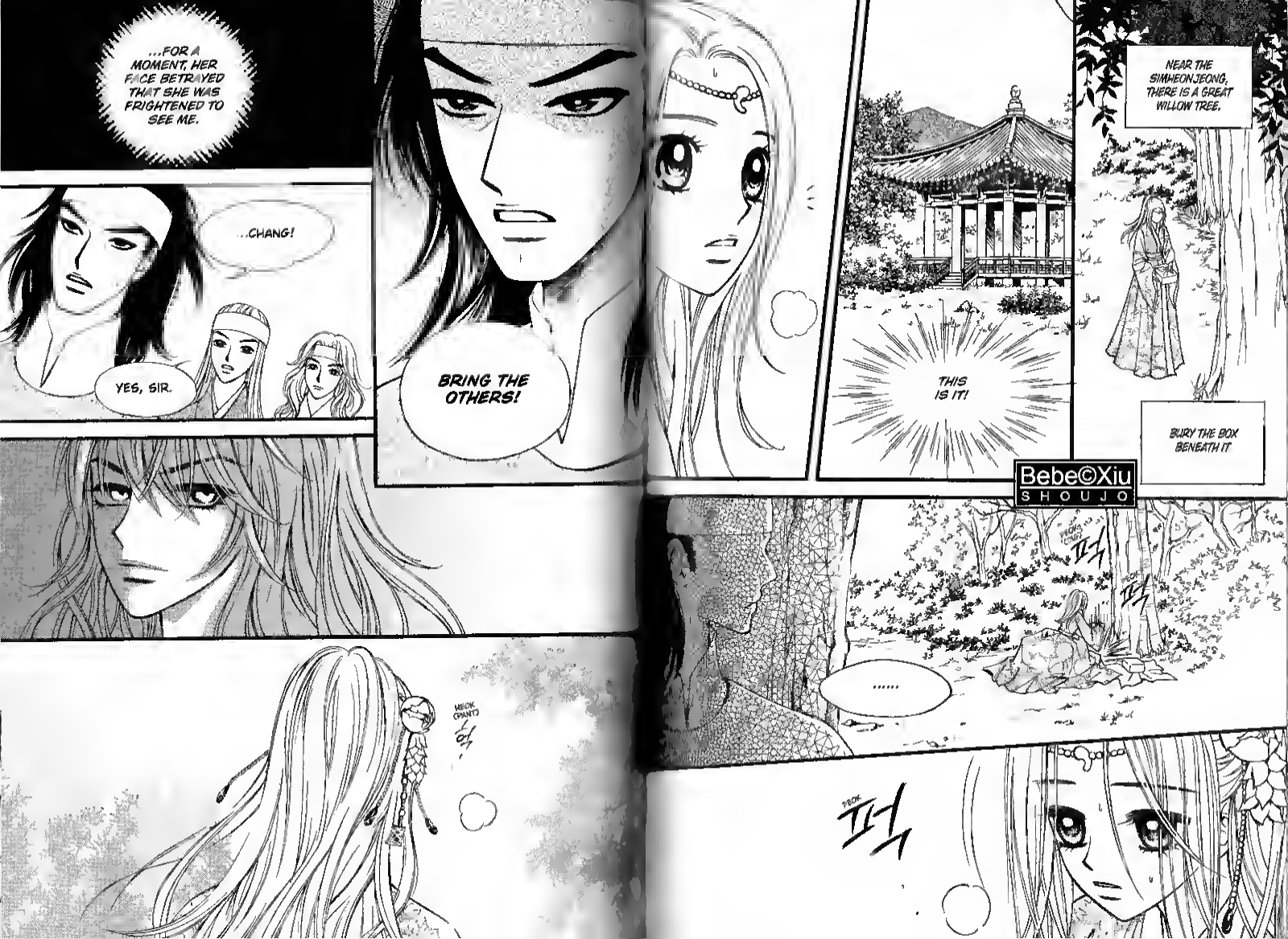
IF YOU DO AS I TELL YOU, I WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOUR DRUNKEN FATHER AND YOUNGER BROTHER LIVE COMFORTABLY FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.
AH, OR WOULD THIS BE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU? SHALL I PROMOTE JA-YUN WITHIN THE NANG-DO?!
KUNG (CHAYUN)
...HE KNOWS ABOUT JA-YUN AND I...?
HOW IS THAT? DOES THAT HELP YOU MAKE YOUR DECISION?
BebeXiu SHOUJO
IT'S TRUE...
EITHER WAY...
HEUHEUK (SOB)
...I AM GOING TO DIE...
PLEASE...
...PROMISE ME YOU WILL BE TRUE TO YOUR WORD!

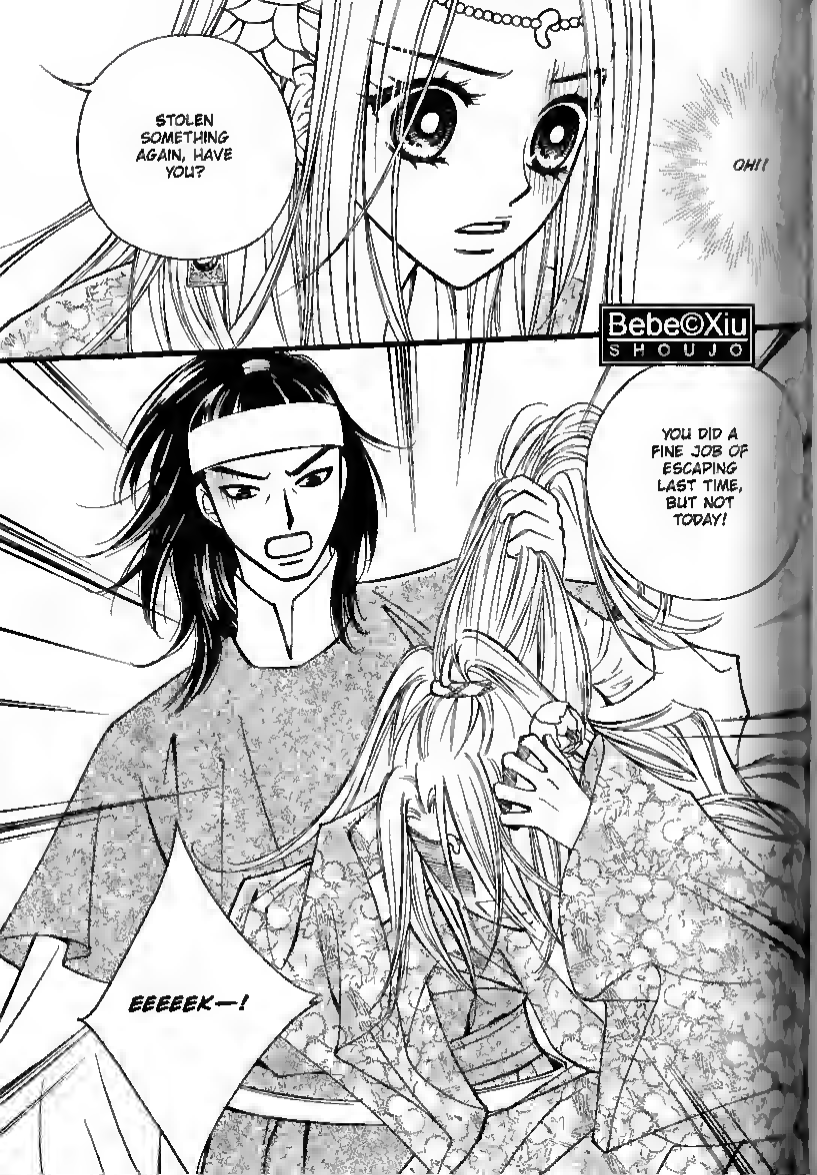
PLEASE...
...KEEP YOUR PROMISE...!
THAT'S HER.
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
IS SHE THE RIGHT GIRL?
.....

THOSE CLOTHES...
...AND THAT HAIR PIECE...
I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE!
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
MOVE THROUGH THE SQUARE AS IF YOU ARE IN A HURRY.
DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AROUND AS IF SOMEONE IS PURSUING YOU.

EXCUSE ME...
OH!
IF YOU ENCOUNTER A TALL MAN, THAT IS YOUR CUE TO RUN AWAY!
!!
THAT... THAT'S ALL RIGHT!
SHE IS THE RIGHT HEIGHT AND HAS THE SAME BODY TYPE...
...AND WHAT'S MORE...!

BebeOXiu SHOUJO


...FOR A MOMENT, HER FACE BETRAYED THAT SHE WAS FRIGHTENED TO SEE ME.
..CHANG!
YES, SIR.
BRING THE OTHERS!
NEAR THE SIMHEONJEONG, THERE IS A GREAT WILLOW TREE.
THIS IS IT!
BURY THE BOX BENEATH IT
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO
.....
MEOK
MEOK
MEOK


STOLEN SOMETHING AGAIN, HAVE YOU?
OH!!
BebeXiu SHOUJO
YOU DID A FINE JOB OF ESCAPING LAST TIME, BUT NOT TODAY!
EEEEEK—!

GATHER THE OTHERS AND MEET ME AT SIMHEONJEONG!
WHY DOES HE NEED EVERYONE JUST TO CAPTURE ONE LITTLE GIRL...?
WHOA?!!

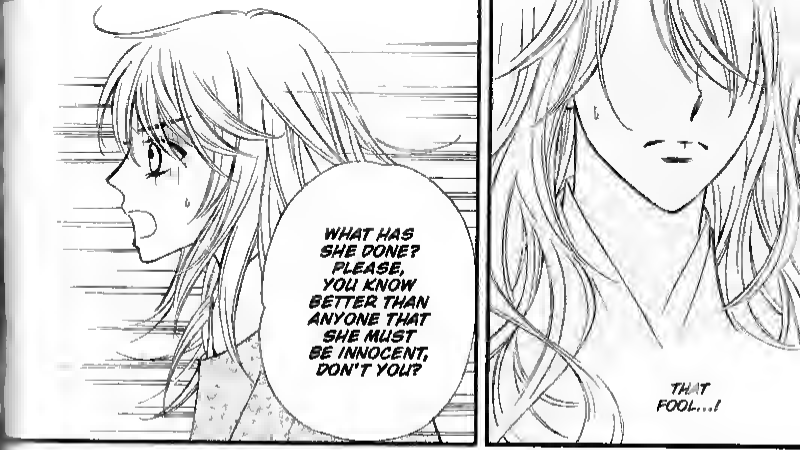
BebeOXiu
SHOUJO
WH-WHAT'S THIS?!
TELL ME WHERE JE-RYONG IS NOW!
IF YOU TELL ME THE TRUTH, I WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE!

GASP!!
THEY'RE TAKING FOR-EVER!
OH!
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
WHAT?
HEY! HOW COULD YOU TELL ME TO RUN HOME IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS? WHAT'S THE DEAL?
BECAUSE YOU CAN OFFER US NO HELP. YOU WILL ONLY BE A BURDEN.
HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M GONNA BE A BURDEN? SO-DAN IS IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF—
THAT IS PRECISELY WHY I AM TELLING YOU TO GO!!
WHOSE FAULT IS IT THAT WE FACE THIS DIRE SITUATION? I TOLD YOU TIME AND AGAIN TO LIE LOW, AND YOU CHOSE INSTEAD TO ACT RASHLY WHENEVER YOU HAD OPPORTU-NITY!
AND NOW SOMEONE WHO HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS HAS BECOME INVOLVED! WHAT MORE DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO?!
!
WHAT TOOK YOU GUYS SO LONG?! DID YOU FIND OUT WHERE SHE IS?
SHE IS AT SIMHEONJEONG, JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN.
REALLY? THEN WE'D BETTER HURRY!
WHERE'S JA-YUN?
I TOLD HIM TO GO AHEAD OF ME. I CAME BACK ONLY TO ASK YOU TO RETURN HOME.

IF YOU ARE TRULY SORRY, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IF THERE WAS EVER A TIME TO LIE LOW, THIS IS IT! NOW GO BACK!
HEY, HEY—
I KNOW THAT! WHO SAID I DON'T! THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT!
SO-DAN, ARE YOU OKAY? YOU AREN'T IN TROUBLE, ARE YOU? ...ARE YOU?
NGH...
WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?
ISN'T IT A BIT LATE TO PRETEND YOU ARE INNOCENT NOW? HOW COULD YOU EVEN THINK I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU WHEN YOU'RE WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES YOU WORE THAT DAY!
BebeXiu SHOUJO
—!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW WORRIED I AM!
WHAT IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS TO HER AGAIN BECAUSE OF ME? WHAT IF WHAT HAPPENED IN MY PAST LIFE IS HAPPENING AGAIN?!!
I JUST HAPPENED TO COME ACROSS THEM AND THOUGHT THEY'D LOOK GOOD ON YOU
...bring the clothes and hair accessories I gave you...
SO THIS HAS TO DO WITH SEUNG-HYU AFTER ALL?

SEOJEBEOK (STEP)
HA
REMEMBER, YOU ARE THE ONLY SPY!
AH...
NO ONE ELSE IS INVOLVED. THIS IS ALL MY DOING.
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT? IT IS CLEAR YOU RUSHED OUT HERE TO MEET SOMEONE. WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO FOOL?!
IT... IT'S TRUE! LORD SEON-PUM ONLY ASKED ME—
SO-DAN—!!
WE MUSTN'T UNDERESTIMATE THIS ONE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE IS A GIRL.
TELL ME, DID YOU COLLECT ALL THIS INFORMATION BY YOURSELF?
HMM— I SEE!
BebeCXiu
SHOUJO

JA-YUN!
MISA-HEUL-RANG! PLEASE, LET HER GO!
BebeXiu SHOUJO


WHAT HAS SHE DONE? PLEASE, YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT SHE MUST BE INNOCENT, DON'T YOU?
THAT FOOL...!

WHO IS THAT BOY?
HE IS MY NANG-DO! HE IS IN LOVE WITH THIS YU-HWA. HE MUST HAVE FOLLOWED HER HERE, NOT KNOWING THE NATURE OF HER ERRAND.
LEAVE HIM TO ME. YOU DEAL WITH THAT GIRL! HURRY!
SEONGHEUM
SEONGHEUM

OH, I WILL.
BIND HER SO SHE CANNOT ESCAPE!
OH!
WAIT—!!
THUD

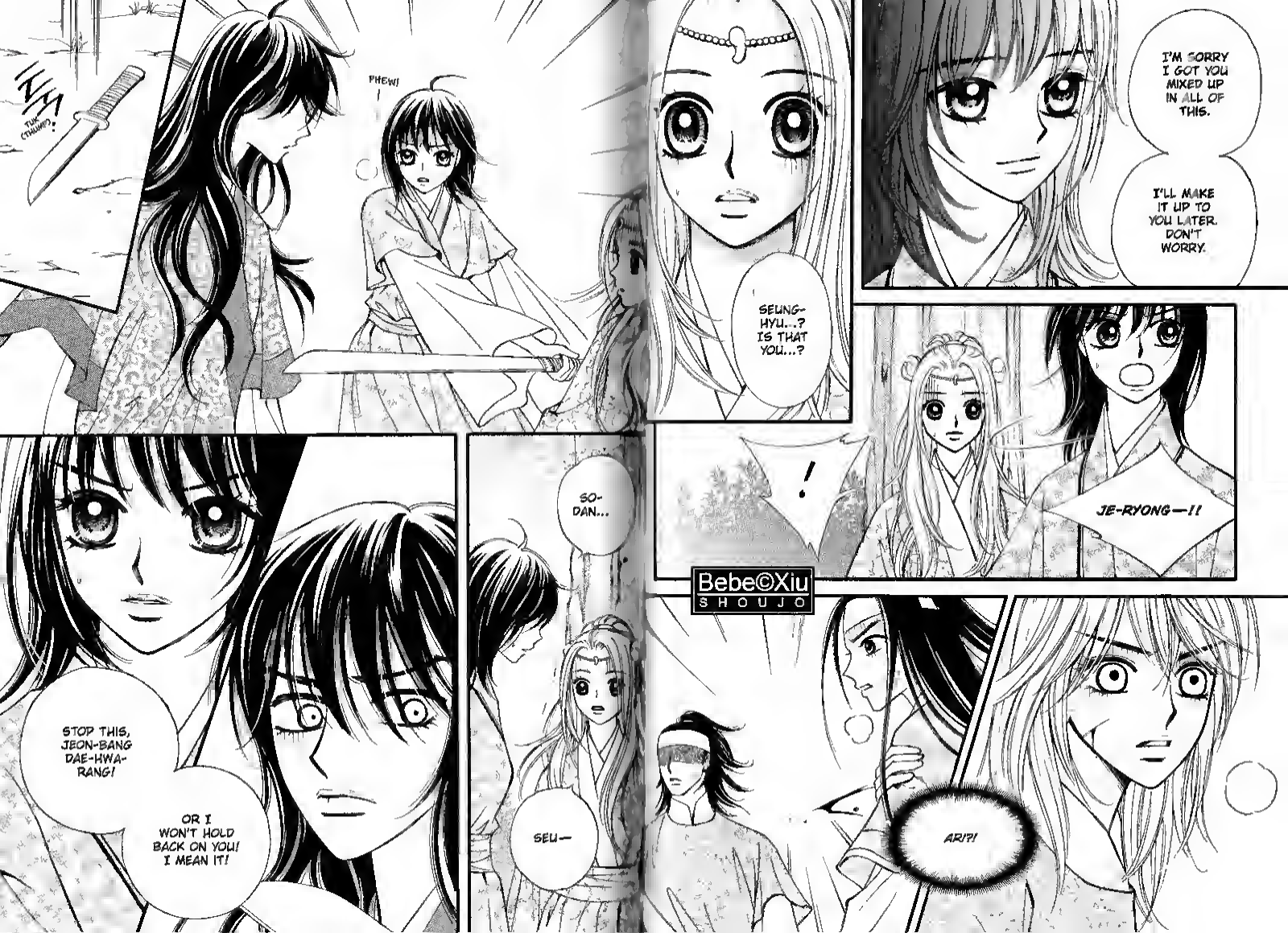
HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
NO, BEFORE THAT—DO YOU KNOW WHY SHE IS HERE?
ARE YOU FRAMING HER FOR WHAT SEUNG-HYU HAS DONE?
!
STILL, I CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO SO-DAN. IF ONLY YOU COULD TELL THEM—
YOU CAN HARDLY EXPECT ME TO DO MORE FOR YOU THAN I ALREADY HAVE! THIS IS THE BEST OPTION I COULD THINK UP!
BebeOXiu
SHOUJO
NOW, WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER? WILL SO-DAN TAKE THE FALL, OR WILL YOU AND SEUNG-HYU TAKE HER PLACE? THE CHOICE IS YOURS!
HMPH—! I SUPPOSE I SHOULD REALLY COMMEND YOU.
IF YOU'VE FIGURED OUT THAT MUCH, WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT BY SACRIFICING HER, THE SITUATION WILL BE PUT TO REST?
HOW CAN YOU—?!
IF THEY DISCOVER HER INNOCENCE, IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE JE-RYONG FINDS OUT ABOUT SEUNG-HYU! AND THAT'S NOT ALL!
DO YOU NOT REALIZE THAT SINCE YOU BROUGHT SEUNG-HYU TO NANG-MEUN, YOU WILL BE PUNISHED AS WELL?
YOU NEED NOT FRET OVER MAKING THAT DECISION, JA-YUN!

IT IS JE-RYONG WHO MUST DECIDE!
PYUK (SWISH)
!!
YOU—!!
SPARE THIS INNOCENT LIFE. LET HER GO, JE-RYONG!
OTHERWISE THIS ARROW WILL SWIFTLY FIND ITS WAY INTO YOUR NECK!
DAMN. .DID LORD SEON-PUM ENTRUST EVERY-THING TO HIM?!
INNOCENT, YOU SAY? I THINK YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN. SHE'S ALREADY CONFESSED TO EVERYTHING.
IT WILL BE EASY TO SILENCE LORD SEON-PUM ON HIS WAY TO THE TANG DYNASTY
PROCURING A FALSE CONFESSION IS HARDLY DIFFICULT! I AM THE ONLY ONE ACTING ON LORD SEON-PUM'S BEHALF. SHE HAS BEEN SET UP! LET HER GO!
BUT IF BUB-MIN-RANG IS INVOLVED, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS MATTER QUIET FOR LONG!
WHO—?!
BebeXiu SHOUJO

IS SHE SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU WOULD GIVE YOURSELF UP?
YOU'VE GIVEN ME MORE REASON TO TAKE THIS GIRL TO LORD GALUBU.
I WILL MAKE THIS BRIEF. FORGET EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED TODAY, OR I WILL BE FORCED TO STRIKE YOU DOWN. WHICH DO YOU CHOOSE?
BebeXiu SHOUJO
.....
I'VE HEARD YOU ARE AN IMPRESSIVE SWORDSMAN, BUT DON'T BE TOO OVERCONFIDENT. IF YOU THINK YOUR ONLY OPPONENTS ARE MY MAN HERE AND MYSELF—
THE REST OF YOUR MEN ARE NOT COMING!
I SEE. I NEVER HAD A CHOICE TO BEGIN WITH.
I'D RATHER END THIS HERE THAN BE PUNISHED BY LORD GALUBU FOR RETURNING EMPTY-HANDED.
.....
JA-YUN! YOU TAKE HIS COMPANION!
YES, SIR!

.....
I CAN'T JUST MOPE AROUND! CRYING WON'T FIX ANYTHING. NO MATTER WHAT HE SAID, I HAVE TO GO.
CHANG (CLANG)
KANG (CLANG)
CHANG (CLANG)
KANG (CLANG)
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO
I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULDN'T REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE I MADE IN MY PAST LIFE!
MITA, WHERE ARE YOU?
NO MATTER WHAT, I HAVE TO STOP ANYONE FROM DYING BECAUSE OF ME!

PAT (GUARD)
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
ALL FOR THAT WORTHLESS YU-HWA?
IF THAT ONE GIRL TAKES THE FALL, WE CAN PUT EVERYTHING BEHIND US!
WHY DID THOSE TWO CAUSE A FUSS WHEN THE SITUATION COULD HAVE BEEN FINISHED SIMPLY?
BebeXiu SHOUJO
ARE YOU HAPPY?
GASP!
KLUNG (CLANG)
KYAAA!!
IF YOU HAD PERFORMED YOUR PART PROPERLY, THINGS WOULD NOT HAVE ENDED UP THIS WAY. IF ONLY YOU HAD DIED, THIS WOULD BE OVER AND DONE WITH!
I TOLD YOU SO MANY TIMES, AND YOU STILL LIVE ON!
FINE! SINCE IT WAS MY MISTAKE TO PUT MY FAITH IN YOU...
DAE... DAE-HWA-RANG...?
KYAAA!
...I WILL FINISH YOU MYSELF!!
CHUNG (CLANG)


TSK (THUMP)
PHEW!
I'M SORRY I GOT YOU MIXED UP IN ALL OF THIS.
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU LATER. DON'T WORRY.
SEUNG-HYU...? IS THAT YOU...?
!
JE-RYONG—!!
SO-DAN...
SEU—
STOP THIS, JEON-BANG DAE-HWA-RANG!
OR I WON'T HOLD BACK ON YOU! I MEAN IT!
ARI?!
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO

OH... I SEE. I WAS CHOSEN TO TAKE THE BLAME OFF OF SEUNG-HYU...
I'M LORD ICHAN SEUN-PUM'S FIRST DAUGHER! I'M THE ONE WHO TRICKED EVERYONE SO I COULD BECOME A NANG-DO AND ACT AS A SPY!
THAT FOOL!!
SILENCE!!
HOW DARE YOU MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME—?!!
STOP IT, JE-RYONG!
HWANG (SLASH)
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS!
LOOK CLOSELY! I'M THE GIRL YOU SAW AT THE INN! SO-DAN HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS!!
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT, SO LET ME TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
!
IF YOU STEP IN, I'LL KILL MYSELF! DON'T MOVE ONE INCH!
JE-RYONG! TAKE ME TO LORD GALUBU! I'LL TELL HIM EVERYTHING. PLEASE, JUST PRETEND THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE ELSE HERE!!
THAT FACE..!!
OH..
INDEED. THAT'S THE FACE.
Bebe©Xiu
SHOUJO

TOO LATE, YOUNG LADY! ALL THESE WITNESSES WILL HAVE TO DIE IF I AM TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF SURVIVAL!
KANG (GRUNTS)
URK—!!
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?
I WAS BORN TO A POOR FAMILY WITH NOTHING TO SUPPORT US—
EVEN THOUGH I MUST DIE IN PLACE OF ANOTHER...
...I WANT AT LEAST TO FACE DEATH PROUDLY AND OF MY OWN WILL!
TWOLSEOK (THUD)
ARI!!
THIS IS THE END FOR YOU!!
I'M DONE FOR!!
IF I HAD JUST SACRIFICED MY LIFE AS DAE-HWA-RANG SAID...
...THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT WOULD NOT BE CAUGHT IN THIS DANGEROUS SITUATION. BUT I WAS RELUCTANT...
THAT'S RIGHT... THE VALUE OF EACH PERSON'S LIFE IS NOT THE SAME.
BebeXiu SHOUJO

BebeXiu
SHOUJO
SO-DAN—!!
HOW... HOW COULD I...?
...BY A LITTLE GIRL...!
HAH...!
DO YOU REALLY THINK .. THIS IS OVER?
...THERE'S STILL...!

BebeCXiu
SHOUJO

TRANSLATION AND HISTORICAL NOTES

GENERAL NOTES

Three Kingdoms: Long ago, the Korean peninsula was made up of three major kingdoms: Goguryeo, Baekje, and Shilla, where *Sarasah* takes place. The Three Kingdoms Period lasted from 67 BC to 668 AD, when Shilla joined with China to conquer the other two kingdoms. As Shilla's power declined in the late 800s, the united kingdoms were claimed by Goryeo. The Goryeo dynasty ruled Korea until it was defeated by the Joseon dynasty in 1392. The Joseon Period lasted until 1910, when the Korean Empire was annexed by Japan.

Hwa-Rang-Do: An elite group of youths in Shilla. It was an educational institution as well as a social club where members, who were mostly sons and daughters of nobility, gathered for all aspects of study. This group developed into a more military organization and was most famous for its members' exceptional archery skills.

Pung-Wol-Ju: The head of Hwa-Rang-Do.

Hwa-Rang: A leader within Hwa-Rang-Do. (-Rang is added as a suffix to one's name, i.e. Bub-Min-Rang.) Each Hwa Rang has many Nang-Do beneath him.

Nang-Do: A term referring to a member of the Hwa-Rang-Do.

Nang-Meun (or Seondo-Meun or Seon-Meun): A training place for Hwa-Rang.

Page 16
-nim: An honorific suffix used to convey respect to the recipient.

Page 36
-hyung: A suffix used by boys to address an older brother or older brother figure.

Page 151
Yu-Hwa: If a peasant girl was especially beautiful, she was allowed to join the Nang-Meun and become a Yu-Hwa. They provided entertainment and sexual favors for the Hwa-Rang.